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Crossing through contentious waters

Reagan is 3rd US carrier to sail South China Sea this year

By CAITLIN DOORNBOS
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA, Japan — The aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan sailed through the South China Sea this week, marking the third transit by a carrier of the contentious waters this year.

The carrier and two Navy cruisers arrived in Manila on Tuesday. The transit follows patrols by the USS Carl Vinson in February and the USS Theodore Roosevelt in April.

China and the U.S. have clashed periodically over naval operations in the area. China, at odds with its neighbors over competing territorial claims, has been building military bases on reclaimed land and harassing ships in disputed waters.

SEE REAGAN ON PAGE 3



KAILA PETERS/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

The aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan recently completed a nine-day exercise in the Philippine Sea.

NATO takes futuristic view with air power strategy

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — Advances in air defense and electronic warfare systems by adversaries will threaten allied dominance in the years ahead, according to a new NATO air power strategy billed as the first of its kind since the U.S.-led alli-

ance was founded in 1949.

The Joint Air Power Strategy also cautions that the emergence of densely populated "megacities" in the years ahead will make targeting enemies increasingly difficult.

"NATO's strategy holds that allied air forces must be able to fight in all terrains and environments, including heavily de-

fended and congested airspace," the alliance said in a statement Tuesday. "While current NATO air operations will continue, the document provides a blueprint for the development of airpower doctrines and new capabilities."

The 11-page document, which outlines a range of dangers, argues threats are more varied and formidable than any

time since the end of the Cold War. While it doesn't explicitly mention Russia, the strategy points out that allies must contend with "near peer" adversaries for the first time since the end of the Soviet Union. In recent years, Russia has invested heavily in sophisticated air defenses designed to challenge NATO.

SEE STRATEGY ON PAGE 7

MILITARY

N. Korea on agenda for US-China talks

Associated Press

BEIJING — U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis and his Chinese counterpart struck a positive note as they sat down Wednesday to tackle the thorny issue of how to get North Korea to allow a pledge to abandon its nuclear program.

Mattis said he and Defense Minister Wei Fenghe opened discussions in Beijing with a “very open and honest dialogue.”

Wei said the visit is important to increase strategic trust and enhance the cooperation between them.

In a later meeting, Chinese President Xi Jinping — who also heads the commission overseeing the People's Liberation Army — called relations between the militaries a “model component of our overall bilateral relations.”

Mattis, a retired Marine Corps

general, said the U.S. assigns the same degree of importance to the relationship.

“So I’m here to keep our relationship on a great trajectory, going in the right direction,” he said.

None of the leaders mentioned specific issues in their opening statements in front of reporters, but North Korean denuclearization was expected to top the agenda.

President Donald Trump’s announcement of a suspension of major annual military exercises with South Korea fulfilled a long-time Chinese wish.

China is the North’s main source of aid, trade and diplomatic support and backs Pyongyang’s call for a “phased and synchronous” approach to denuclearization, as opposed to Washington’s demand for an instant, total and

irreversible end to the North’s nuclear programs.

The visit also comes amid a brewing trade war between the world’s two largest economies and sharp U.S. criticism over China’s militarization of its island holdings in the South China Sea.

The Pentagon disavowed the Chinese navy from a multinational naval exercise the U.S. is hosting this summer in what it called “an initial response” to China’s fortressing of man-made islands in the crucial waterway.

Despite that, both sides reaffirmed the importance of maintaining exchanges, with Mattis saying he was visiting because of the importance that “we in the U.S. military place on the military-to-military relationship with the [People’s Liberation Army].”



MARK SCHIFFELBEIN/AP

Chinese Defense Minister Wei Fenghe, left, and U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis review an honor guard during a welcome ceremony at the Bayi Building in Beijing on Wednesday.

Mattis set to meet Japanese defense minister

By CAITLIN DOORNBOS

Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — Defense Secretary Jim Mattis will meet his Japanese counterpart Friday amid concerns about America’s evolving relationship with North Korea.

Isumori Onodera, Japan’s defense minister, told reporters Tuesday that the meeting would be based on exchanges Mattis has in China and South Korea this week before he travels to Japan.

“I hope to exchange views on various issues involving this re-

gion and Japan-U.S. alliance, including North Korea,” Onodera said.

Some in Japan have expressed concern about the cancellation of U.S.-South Korean war games following Trump’s meeting with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in Singapore.

Onodera has noted improved dialogue with the North but told reporters last week that he remains concerned about the country’s nuclear capabilities.

“North Korea has hundreds of ballistic missiles that could reach Japan,” he said Friday. “North

Korea has yet to take any concrete steps toward the abandonment of nuclear weapons.”

Adm. Philip Davidson, commander of the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, met with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in Tokyo June 21 to affirm America’s dedication to denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and the defense of Japan.

“Our alliance remains the cornerstone for peace and security throughout the Indo-Pacific region and defending our shared democratic values in a dangerous world,” Davidson told Abe

during the visit. “Events in the region continue to remind us that our alliance is more important to the region’s stability than ever before.”

Tokyo will be Mattis’ final stop on his weeklong Asia tour.

Mattis told reporters ahead of his trip that he had been in consultation with Onodera and that the U.S. works “very closely” with Tokyo on North Korean denuclearization, calling it a fundamental issue for the safety of the Japanese people.

“In our relationship, we recognize Japanese concerns for the

short-range and medium-range ballistic missiles, the abductions of the Japanese girls over many years and broader security issues across the Pacific,” Mattis said of his talks with Onodera, according to a transcript of the press briefing.

More American troops are based in Japan than in any other foreign country. Japan hosts 50,000 U.S. troops spread throughout 85 facilities covering 77,000 acres, according to U.S. Forces Japan.

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PACIFIC

Reagan: Sailors will take tours, volunteer while on port call in the Philippines

FROM FRONT PAGE

Last month, one of the cruisers accompanying the Reagan — the USS Antietam — and the San Diego-based USS Higgins drew the ire of Beijing when they came within 12 nautical miles of Chinese-claimed islets during a freedom-of-navigation patrol in the South China Sea.

The U.S. uninvited the Chinese navy from Rim of the Pacific exercises this year after Pentagon officials said they had “strong evidence” Beijing deployed anti-ship and surface-to-air missiles and electronic jammers to contested areas in the South China Sea.

The Reagan and Antietam sailors, along with personnel from the USS Chancellorsville, will be volunteering at local hospitals and schools or going on Morale, Welfare and Recreation hiking, diving and snorkeling tours while they’re in the Philippines’ capital, according to a Navy news release.

“Manila is one of the favorite port visits for sailors in the Pacific thanks to the beauty and

welcoming people of the Philippines,” Rear Adm. Marc Dalton, commander of Task Force 70, said in the news release.

The Reagan, Antietam and Chancellorsville have been patrolling the Indo-Pacific region since leaving their home at Yokosuka in May.

The warships recently finished Malabar 2018 with India and Japan near Guam. During the nine-day exercise in the Philippine Sea, the ships hosted liaison officers from the other countries and practiced air defense, surface and anti-submarine warfare, communications, search and rescue, underway replenishment and medical evacuation, the Navy said.

From June 16 through Saturday, the Reagan also hosted Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force personnel who worked with U.S. sailors on interoperability and conducted an anti-submarine warfare exercise, the Navy said in its statement.

“This continued presence in the Indo-Pacific at sea and in visits to ports like [Manila], promotes se-



BULLIT MARQUEZ/AP

A U.S. sailor takes photos of the USS Ronald Reagan as it anchors off Manila Bay for a goodwill visit Tuesday west of Manila, Philippines.

curity and stability that has driven the peace and prosperity that benefits all regional countries,”

Dalton said in the news release. The warships will continue their patrols after the Manila

port visit.

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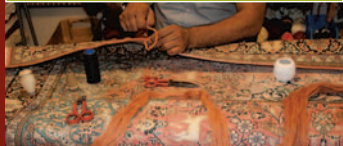


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PACIFIC

Report: N. Korea improves nuclear complex

By **KIM GAMEL**
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea is making improvements to its main nuclear complex "at a rapid pace," a report said, even as the communist state engages in diplomatic efforts over its weapons programs.

The findings come after North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's agreement to the "complete denuclearization" of the peninsula during his June 12 summit with President Donald Trump.

The report by 38 North, a website devoted to analysis of North Korea, which was posted Tuesday, stressed that the ongoing efforts at the Yongbyon Nuclear Scientific Research Center "should not be seen as having any relationship" to North Korea's denuclearization pledge.

But the continued activity underscored concerns that the North has not agreed to any concrete measures or timelines in negotiations so far.

"The North's nuclear cadre can be expected to proceed with business as usual until specific orders are issued from Pyongyang," said the analysis by experts Frank Pabian, Joseph Bermudez Jr. and Jack Liu.

Commercial satellite images taken June 21 showed that modifications to the cooling system of Yongbyon's 5-megawatt plutonium production reactor that began in March appear complete, according to 38 North.

It said the water discharge from an outfall pipe was less than previously observed, making it difficult to determine the reac-



Courtesy of Airbus Defense and Space and 38 North

A satellite photo purportedly shows improvements at North Korea's Yongbyon nuclear research facility.

tor's operational status.

The June 21 images also show at least two new buildings and continued construction on support facilities throughout operational areas at the complex, especially

at an experimental light water reactor, or ELWR, 38 North said.

"The necessary infrastructure for reactor operations at the ELWR appears externally complete, but there is no visible

evidence yet to suggest that operations have begun," it said.

The light water reactor is designed to provide electricity for civilian purposes but could also produce fissile material for nuclear weapons.

The report also said a radiochemical laboratory, used to separate plutonium from spent fuel, seems active, with trucks parked nearby and coal bins at an associated thermal plant appearing somewhat depleted, suggesting continued operations.

Tensions have ebbed amid the uptick in diplomatic efforts to persuade the North to abandon its nuclear weapons. But the country demonstrated strong advances in its program by test-firing three intercontinental ballistic missiles and conducting its sixth and most powerful nuclear test last year.

Kim Jong Un has suspending the testing program — the last missile test was on Nov. 28 — and the North blew up its nuclear testing facility at Punggye-ri on the east coast. But experts have expressed skepticism about the significance of those moves since Kim also has declared his country a nuclear state.

South Korean Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha said last week that "complete denuclearization is the goal" and included the Yongbyon complex in her definition.

"Complete denuclearization means weapons, materials, facilities and plants, and that would include the Yongbyon complex," she told reporters in Seoul.

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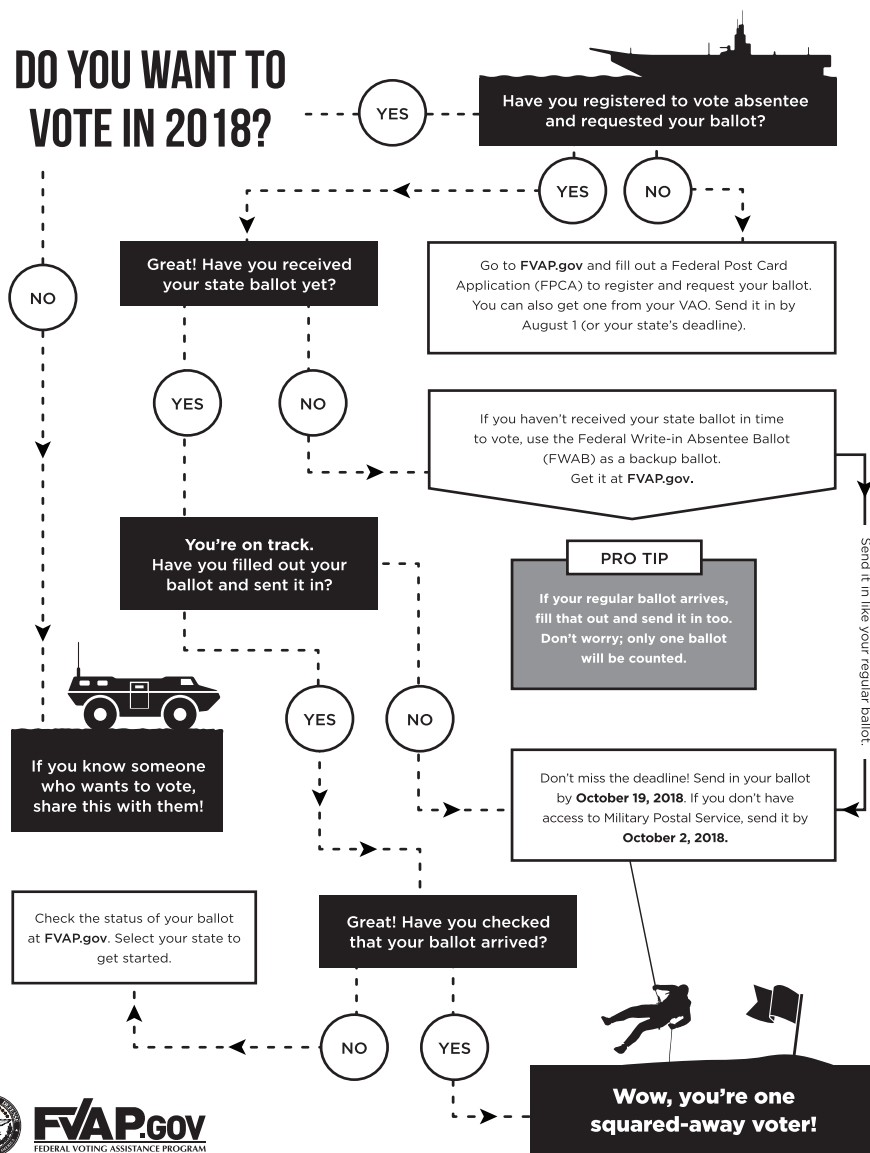


THE NEW SANNÔ

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MILITARY

Army drops wait periods for college tuition assistance

By WILLIAM HOWARD
Stars and Stripes

The one-year wait is over for soldiers planning to use tuition assistance for an undergraduate degree, while others wishing to pursue a master's degree no longer have to wait 10 years.

Beginning Aug. 5, the new Army Tuition Assistance Policy will categorize soldiers into two tiers depending on their level of civilian education.

Soldiers pursuing an associate or bachel-

elor's degree or those with a bachelor's degree who haven't previously used the Army tuition assistance program and want to continue their education fall under tier one.

Tier one tuition assistance will be available for soldiers of all components who have completed advanced individual training, meet existing eligibility requirements and have no disciplinary problems.

Officers and warrant officers who have completed their basic courses are also eligible for tier one tuition assistance.

Soldiers who previously used tuition assistance for their undergraduate degree and wish to pursue a master's degree fall under tier two. Tuition assistance cannot be used for a doctorate, according to Army guidance.

Enlisted soldiers who have successfully completed the advanced leader's course, warrant officers who have graduated their advanced course and officers who have graduated the captain's career course or its equivalent are eligible for tier two tuition assistance.

Less than 20 percent of soldiers currently use tuition assistance, said Pamela Raymer, director of the Army Continuing Education System.

"We're hoping this new policy will encourage more soldiers to sign up for tuition assistance, as this will help them professionally when they're in the Army and increase their employability when they separate," Raymer said in a statement.

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Servicemembers, vets win regional Emmys

By LEON COOK
Stars and Stripes

Military storytellers were honored by the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences at regional award ceremonies this month.

The servicemembers and vets received coveted Emmy awards at events to honor achievements in news, sports and documentary filmmaking.

They won't be part of the Primetime Emmys in Los Angeles but they got the same shiny statuettes that tearful Hollywood stars will brandish during accep-

taunce speeches in the fall.

"[The award ceremony] was an amazing experience. You look around the room and you were seeing tons of people that you see on TV every day," Air Force veteran Pete Inging, who won an Emmy on Saturday, told Stars and Stripes in an email Wednesday.

Inging and his collaborator Kevin Miller, also an Air Force vet, were recognized by the Maryland/National Capital/Chesapeake Bay chapter of the national academy for "Stearman," a video produced for Airman Magazine showcasing the friendship an Air Force Reserve first sergeant and a 96-

year-old World War II veteran formed around a shared love of flying Stearman biplanes.

"It was a great day, but it all went so fast that it's almost like I don't even remember it," Inging said.

Marine Master Gunnery Sgt. Chad McMeen, Sgt. Annika Moody and Sgt. Warren Smith received Emmys from the same chapter Saturday for "Body Bearers," a short documentary about the 15 Marines who carry the caskets at funerals for Marines at Arlington National Cemetery.

At the Michigan Emmy Awards on June 16, Tyler Prince and

Army Sgt. 1st Class Jose Ibarra took home Emmys for their piece "Spc. 5 James McCloughan: 'They Called Me Doc,'" about an Army medic who saved the lives of 10 soldiers at Nui Yon Hill in Vietnam and later received a Medal of Honor.

"I had no expectation that we would even be nominated, let alone win," Prince told Stars and Stripes via email Tuesday. "That story represents several weeks of my life so being recognized for something you put your heart and soul into is incredibly satisfying."

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Courtesy of Pete Inging

Pete Inging shows off his Emmy at the Maryland/National Capital/Chesapeake Bay regional Emmy Awards on Saturday.



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MILITARY

Strategy: Operations to focus on cyberattacks

FROM FRONT PAGE

"As a result, the future operating environment may be one in which air superiority can neither be assured at the onset of operations nor, once obtained, be the enduring condition," the strategy states.

The strategy also describes an operating environment in which cyberattacks and enemy access to sophisticated technology pose a threat to networks that allies depend on to operate.

The protection of the network will become as important as the protection of the platform," the strategy says.

The mix of threats — state and nonstate, conventional and cyber — adds up to an environment that "will likely have long-term consequences for peace, security and stability in the Euro-Atlantic region," according to the strategy document.

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Paratrooper recalled as friend and mentor

BY NANCY MONTGOMERY
Stars and Stripes

VICENZA, Italy — The 54th Brigade Engineer Battalion, 173rd Airborne Brigade mourned the death Wednesday of one of their own at a memorial service at Caserma Del Din.

Staff Sgt. Krasean Clayborn was remembered as a charismatic mentor who, as a career counselor helping soldiers make life-changing decisions, happily went the extra mile.

He was known, speakers repeatedly said, for his signature smile — "a contagious grin that never seemed to leave his face," said Capt. Mike Baise, Clayborn's chaplain. "It seemed to shine out of his soul into mine."

Clayborn, 36, was found dead in his barracks June 1 of still-unexplained causes, although authorities said there was no evidence of foul play. The death remains under investigation.

Clayborn, from Milwaukee, Wis., enlisted in the Army in 2010 after several years in the Navy. He served two combat tours in Afghanistan as an infantryman and then became a career counselor in 2015.

"He was very talented," Lt. Col. Andrew Baker, commander of the engineer battalion, told the mourners. "Staff Sgt. Clayborn was born to serve others."

Clayborn also was a popular local DJ known as DJ Legend and Mr. Mayhem.

Several soldiers said that Clayborn could always be counted on to show up when they needed a friend.

"He was the type of person I could call, and he would answer," Spc. Dasean Payton said. "He was the older brother I never had."

Clayborn was also hailed as an exceptional basketball player.

"He was the most charismatic, happy, positive person I've ever met in my life," Sgt. 1st Class Marquis Walker said.

Clayborn was married and had a 12-year-old son.

Baise said that Clayborn's reservoir of empathy, patience and encouragement made him perfectly suited to his job helping soldiers decide important questions about their lives and futures.

He said the best way to honor him was to emulate him, to reach out to others and to "live by the power of the smile."

But after Clayborn's first sergeant called his final roll call and a bugler played taps, tears began falling.

The sobs of Valdemetrea McCollum, Clayborn's mother, filled the room. "My baby," she cried. "My son."

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NANCY MONTGOMERY/Stars and Stripes
Staff Sgt. Krasean Clayborn's portrait is shown at his memorial Wednesday at Caserma Del Din in Vicenza, Italy.

Complaint filed against Navy over displayed Bible

BY MATTHEW M. BURKE
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — An organization that lobbies against promoting religion within the Armed Forces has filed an inspector general complaint against the U.S. Navy over a Bible that was included in a POW/MIA "Missing Man" table display at the U.S. Naval Hospital Okinawa.

The complaint seeks removal of the book from the display, elimination of language about the Bible and the phrase "one nation under God" from an accompanying explanatory placard, an investigation into how the book came to be displayed and who authorized it and "appropriate disciplinary measures administered to those responsible."

It was filed Tuesday by the New York-based law office of Donald Rehkopf Jr. on behalf of the Military Religious Freedom Foundation and 26 families on Okinawa.

The MRFF first filed a complaint about the display with Rear Adm. Paul Pearigen, Navy Medicine West commander, on April 5. The Navy later said it investigated the matter but found that including the Bible was "consistent with Department of the Navy and Department of Defense guidance, as well as the U.S. Constitution."

The dispute over the display began when a group of sailors, Marines and Department of Defense civilian employees stationed on Okinawa reached out to the MRFF, asking for help to

get the Bible removed, according to Mikey Weinstein, founder and president of the MRFF.

Weinstein, a former Air Force judge advocate general and Reagan administration lawyer, contacted hospital officials and asked them to remove the religious items. He said a Navy JAG assigned to the hospital refused to do so without permission from the hospital commander, Capt. Cynthia Kuehnle, who was away on temporary duty assignment.

MRFF lawyers then sent a complaint to Pearigen, citing the First Amendment's Establishment Clause. The lawyers argued that the First Amendment not only forbids the government from establishing an official religion but also prohibits government actions that favor one religion over another. They also cited Defense Department and Navy regulations.

The official Navy and DOD stance on Bibles being included in the POW/MIA "Missing Man" table displays remains unclear. However, a report on the Navy's website from 2014 describes the Bible as being an official part of the display.

The fight to remove religious articles from POW/MIA "Missing Man" tables is nothing new for the MRFF. The group has been successful in other cases, the latest in November when it forced the Denver VA Medical Center to remove religious items from a display.

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MILITARY

Army shows it has sea ability

By JASON BEHNKE
Stars and Stripes

MANAMA, Bahrain — Nautical Horizon 2018 concluded with a display of the Army's ability to quickly move and deploy its forces and equipment when pulling up to a pier isn't an option.

Soldiers readied combat vehicles and supplies stored permanently in Kuwait, loaded them onto a massive floating platform and transferred the equipment to the Ready Reserve Force ship MV Cape Ray on Sunday as part of the final movements of the seven-week exercise.

The U.S. Army Central operation aims to ensure that if trouble breaks out in the Middle East and there are no airstrips or easily accessible supply lines going into a conflict zone, the service can still land a large force on a foreign shore efficiently.

The exercise also showcased the Army's little-recognized maritime force. It doesn't have

the Marine Corps' amphibious assault vehicles or the Navy's large ships, but it's still designed to land troops and armor on beaches.

Army ships undertook 6,100 missions during Operation Desert Storm in 1991, according to a Federation of American Scientists report.

About 300 National Guardsmen, reservists and active-duty soldiers and nine Army watercraft were involved in Sunday's exercise, which was conducted in Kuwait and the Persian Gulf.

U.S. Central Command "maintains contingency plans to react to regional threats which are validated through exercises such as Nautical Horizon," said Lt. Col. Andrew W. Ziegenfuss, 1st Theater Sustainment Command future operations and plans officer-in-charge.

Nautical Horizon is held every two years. It is meant to test equipment, and more importantly, to confirm that the par-



Courtesy of the U.S. Army

Army equipment is transferred at sea Sunday in the Persian Gulf during Operation Nautical Horizon. The two-stage exercise conducts an Army watercraft brigade inspection reconnaissance exercise on an Army prepositioned site drill in conjunction with a logistics drill.

ticipating guardsmen, reservists and full-time soldiers can work together to conduct the difficult task of transporting mission-essential cargo.

Kuwait is home of the Army Prepositioned Stocks-5 site. The

site stores \$5.5 billion worth of equipment, allowing the Army to rapidly deploy resources until other supply lines are established, according to a U.S. Central Command statement.

This year marked the third

iteration of Nautical Horizon, which began May 7. The exercise's many stateside-based units will return to the U.S. early next month.

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Junior enlisted soldiers get big responsibility as Europe mission sprawls

By WILL MORRIS
Stars and Stripes

BAUMHOLDER, Germany — The 16th Sustainment Brigade is giving junior enlisted soldiers responsibilities they wouldn't get without pinning on a lot more rank elsewhere as the growing scope of missions in Europe stretches its personnel resources.

The brigade is the lead support unit for Europe under the 21st Theater Sustainment Command. With roughly 3,200 soldiers, the brigade's subordinate units cover 35 countries over an area about a third larger than the continental United States.

Because of their geographical reach in comparison with stateside-based units, they do the amount of work normally tasked to three sustainment brigades, brigade commander Col. Michelle Donahue said.

There are risks involved in allowing inexperienced soldiers to manage such tasks as loading tanks onto trains, but they're more often outweighed by the gains in morale, confidence and personal growth, brigade officials said.

"Within the sustainment brigade we have to rely on our junior leaders simply because we don't have the number of experienced leaders to actually go out there and perform missions," said Command Sgt.

Maj. Frank Graham during a sustainment mission in Antwerp, Belgium, in May. "In no other sustainment brigade are soldiers getting the opportunities that they do with in the 16th Sustainment Brigade — actually getting hands-on (experience), getting out there in the yard doing their jobs."

Senior military commanders in Europe have repeatedly said they need more logistical forces and capabilities. Congress also has called on the military to review its force structure in Europe to determine whether it is sufficiently resourced.

The 2019 defense budget calls for \$653 million in spending on the European Deterrence Initiative, a 37 percent increase over this year. But what extra funding will go to sustainment if the budget passes relatively intact remains unclear.

In the meantime, the 16th Sustainment Brigade will continue supporting a variety of units and missions. Besides regular supply and trucking units, the brigade can deliver fuel and water, run remote administrative sections, deliver mail, dispose of expended or abandoned munitions, perform maintenance and set up communications. Last year, the brigade supported 53 exercises, Donahue said, adding that there are fewer exercises this year but bigger and longer ones. This summer, the brigade will support 20,000 U.S. and allied soldiers.

In May, the sustainment brigade was the main unit that moved equipment for the 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, from a port facility in Belgium to Poland for Saber Strike 2018. They also assisted the combat brigade's nine-month rotation as part of Operation Atlantic Resolve, a NATO mission to deter Russia that began after Moscow's annexation of the Crimean Peninsula in 2014.

In a staging yard inside the port of Antwerp, junior enlisted soldiers from the brigade directed rail car loading for the NATO mission.

Cpl. Braian Ortiz, a transport movement coordinator with the 624th Movement Control Team, was one of those in the yard accounting for the cars. He made sure all the cargo was loaded in the proper order. Normally a staff sergeant would be doing that job, said Sgt. 1st Class Andrew Korbel, Ortiz's supervisor.

Ortiz said the experience was challenging but boosted his morale.

"It feels good to be chosen; it's like somebody trusts you," he said. "It inspires you to work harder."

When Ortiz arrived at the unit, he was a private first class. Now two years later, he is about to earn his sergeant's stripes. While at the movement control team, a subordinate unit of the brigade, he cross-

trained and became the detachment's supply sergeant, a job normally given to a staff sergeant.

Ortiz, whose native language is Spanish, stayed after work almost daily, reading through the Army's English-language manuals to learn his secondary job. The supply job led to his promotion, he said.

"I got known among a lot of units and was able to go to extra classes and different boards," he said.

Ortiz conceded that sometimes trusting soldiers with extra responsibility can be a mistake.

"It really depends on the person, if they are willing to put forth the effort to succeed," he said. "It was a big chance, but the leadership has taught me thoroughly."

Having junior enlisted and noncommissioned officers take on so much responsibility is risky for leaders, too. But they say the payoffs are worth it.

"If you strive to unleash talent by shifting the mindset from control to growth, the risk is worth underwriting each and every day," Donahue said. "Sending our junior leaders out on their own to operate and lead sustainment missions empowers them to grow."

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MILITARY

WWII Army vet had 'the heart of a true hero'

Lieutenant's widow accepts Medal of Honor for him, capping 2-decade quest

By COREY DICKSTEIN

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Garlin "Muri" Conner never wavered under fire during his 28 consecutive months of combat in North Africa and Europe. In the two decades since Conner's death, his family never wavered in their quest for the recognition that they knew he deserved — the Medal of Honor.

On Tuesday, President Donald Trump posthumously awarded the nation's highest military honor to Conner, explaining how he might not have been an imposing figure by stature but his bravery in battlefields during World War II made him larger than life.

"Today, we pay tribute to this Kentucky farm boy who stared down evil with the strength of a warrior and the heart of a true hero," the president said before presenting the Medal of Honor to Conner's widow, Pauline. "Muri was indeed a giant in his daring, in his devotion and in his duty."

Conner stood 5 feet, 6 inches tall and weighed about 120 pounds, but soldiers who served with the first lieutenant described him as fearless. On Jan. 24, 1945, Conner, who was already shot in his hip, volunteered to advance through a field of German artillery fire to an unprotected position 30 yards in front of his own unit's defenses in order to direct artillery fire on a force of 600 German soldiers and six tanks.

"These people who were with him, many of them say it was the single bravest act they'd ever seen," Trump said of Conner's actions that day for which he was initially awarded the Distinguished Service Cross. "Somehow Lt. Conner survived the attack."

Pauline Conner, 89, beamed Tuesday as Trump upgraded the award. She was helped onto the stage at the front of the White House's East Room to receive the honor that she had fought to attain for her husband for 22 years. She threw her arms around Trump, kissing him on the cheek, before a crowd of U.S. officials, friends and family members including her son Paul, her five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

"She's a very special woman," the president remarked.

It was a moment that Pauline Conner never thought would come.

"After all these years it really is and truly is an honor," Conner

said Monday at the Pentagon. "I had really and truly given up on it. I just didn't think it would ever happen. But he has a (combat) record that speaks for itself. I don't have to tell it."

Conner's Army record during the war included four Silver Stars, French valor awards and three Purple Hearts. He earned the decorations in savage battles between October 1942 and March 1945 as his 3rd Infantry Division unit pushed from Morocco, across Tunisia into Italy, across France and into Germany.

The Medal of Honor raises Conner into the ranks of the most highly decorated soldiers in the Army's history, perhaps making him the second-most decorated servicemember to fight in World War II, behind only the revered Audie Murphy, according to Erik Villard, a historian with the Army's Center for Military History.

His actions earned him the respect of his fellow soldiers and of his commanders, who in 1944 granted him a battlefield commission from technical sergeant to second lieutenant.

Lloyd Ramsey, Conner's battalion commander who would rise to major general, wrote Conner was the best combat soldier he had ever observed in action.

"No words can express the outstanding leadership qualities that Lt. Conner had," the late Ramsey wrote after the war. Conner was "always willing to do more than his part."

Modest about exploits

But people who knew Conner after he left the Army knew little of the small-town Kentucky farmer's battlefield exploits. He rarely, if ever, spoke of his service because he was concerned it could come across as bragging, said Pauline Conner. He instead chose to tell people who inquired about his time in combat that he'd left those memories across the Atlantic Ocean, she said.

When Pauline met Muri in 1945 at a parade in their hometown of Albany, Ky., honoring his service just after his return from the war, she said she found it difficult to believe the stories of his combat heroics.

"He was such a caring person. He really was," she said. "I just couldn't imagine him doing what he did. Not in my mind I sure couldn't."

Conner had already received



MEKETHIN TIBBETTS/Stars and Stripes

President Donald Trump awarded the nation's highest military honor to Garlin "Muri" Conner's widow, Pauline, in a White House ceremony Tuesday.

three of his four Silver Stars for risking his life to save the men with whom he served when his unit — 3rd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment — found itself facing down some 600 German infantrymen and six Panzer Mark VI Tiger tanks near the town of Houssen, France.

It was the morning of Jan. 24, 1945, and the German army was launching desperate attacks on American formations in the wake of its defeat in the Battle of Bulge.

Conner, his battalion's intelligence officer, could see his unit was in danger of being overrun and took it upon himself to ensure U.S. artillery was hitting the German positions not entirely visible from behind the front lines.

The soldier — already wounded in his hip from sniper fire in an earlier fight — grabbed a telephone, unspooling the wire that connected it to his commander's telephone, and dashed 400 yards forward, passing his battalion's defensive position. Ignoring warnings from soldiers around him, Conner continued another 30 yards past the line, maneuvering through a field of artillery fire before diving into a snowy, shallow ditch from where he could observe the enemy formation, according to recounts of the battle.

With only the telephone and his submachine gun, Conner spent the next three hours lying in that ditch, directing American artillery fire as swarms of German soldiers moved toward his battalion, according to his Medal of Honor citation. When his position was eventually spotted by the German soldiers clotted within some 10 yards of him, Conner remained calm. He called in fire on his own position, "having resolved to die to stall the enemy advance," fearing if the Germans near him moved forward they would decimate the U.S. soldiers behind him, according to the citation.

"By his incredible heroism and disregard for his own life, Conner stopped the enemy advance," the citation reads. "The artillery he expertly directed under con-

stant enemy fire killed approximately 50 German soldiers and wounded at least 100 more, thus preventing heavy casualties in his battalion."

Conner should not have even been in that battle.

The lieutenant had snuck away from a field hospital where he was being treated for the bullet wound in his hip, telling his superior officers that he would not let his men continue to fight without him by their side.

The 22-year fight

The Conner family's quest to see Muri Conner's Distinguished Service Cross, the nation's second-highest award for combat valor, upgraded to the Medal of Honor began by accident.

A former Green Beret, Richard Chilton, had reached out to the Conners in 1996 seeking information about his late uncle, Army Pfc. Gordon Roberts, who died in the Battle of Anzio, Italy, in 1944. Roberts had served with Conner.

Pauline Conner suggested Chilton search her husband's war records for any information that he could find about his uncle's service.

Chilton was astonished by what he found, said Luther Conner, a cousin of Muri Conner and the family's attorney.

Chilton "saw all the medals and [Conner's] awards were in a cardboard box in the bottom of his duffle bag in the back of the living room closet," Luther Conner said Monday. "He took it upon himself to write hundreds and hundreds

of letters" seeking the upgrade.

It launched a struggle that would last the next 22 years through battles with the Army's awards branch and eventually in courtrooms.

Luther Conner said the family had finally found some closure with Trump's upgrade of Muri Conner's award, 20 years after his death at the age of 79 following kidney failure and diabetes. "We were quite sure from the outset," Luther said about his cousin's deserving a Medal of Honor. "You could read the account. There was just no doubt he was deserving of it. That's separating any emotion or family interest or anything."

Trump agreed, saying his decision to approve the upgrade was easy.

"He couldn't stop [fighting] because he loved our country and he fought with everything he had to stop the Nazi menace," the president said. "... He will never, ever be forgotten. We will never forget his story. We will always be grateful to God for giving us heroes like Muri."

Pauline Conner said Monday that her only wish was that her late husband had lived long enough to receive his Medal of Honor himself.

"He would feel highly honored," she said. "Yes he would. I just wish he was here to get it. He earned it. He's the one who earned it. I just wish so badly he was here — that [they had] done it when he was here."

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NATION

Political upstart pulls off shocking NY win

By DEEPTI HAJELA
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, a 28-year-old political novice running on a low budget and an unabashedly liberal platform, upset longtime U.S. Rep. Joseph Crowley on Tuesday in the Democratic congressional primary in New York.

The surprise victory by the community organizer in a district that includes parts of the Bronx and Queens came after an energetic, grass-roots campaign that mustered more than enough support in a low-turnout race that many had expected to be an easy win for Crowley, a member of the Democratic House leadership.

"The community is ready for a movement of economic and social justice. That is what we tried to deliver," said Ocasio-Cortez, who has never held elected office and whose candidacy attracted only modest media attention.

She told The Associated Press after her victory that she didn't have enough money to do polling in the race, but felt in her gut that her message had a chance to connect.

"I live in this community. I organized in



Ocasio-Cortez

this community," she said. "I felt the absence of the incumbent. I knew he didn't have a strong presence."

Crowley has been in Congress since 1999 and hadn't faced an opponent in a primary election since 2004, when Ocasio-Cortez was just a teenager.

He was considered a candidate to become the next House speaker if Democrats win the majority.

"It's not about me," Crowley, 56, told his supporters at a campaign party following his loss. "It's about America. I want nothing but the best for Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. I want her to be victorious."

Crowley represents New York's 14th Congressional District, where he is also the

leader of the Queens Democratic party. Ocasio-Cortez was ousted by an 18-1 margin during her race but won the endorsement of some influential groups on the party's far left, including MoveOn, as well as the actress Cynthia Nixon, who is running for governor. She defeated Crowley by 15 percentage points.

Born in the Bronx to a mother from Puerto Rico and a father who died in 2008, Ocasio-Cortez said she decided to challenge Crowley to push a more progressive stance on economic and other issues.

Among her issues is expanding the Medicare program to people of all ages and abolishing Immigrations and Customs Enforcement.

Primary takeaways: Major parties stay on partisan paths

By BILL BARROW
Associated Press

An ambitious senior Democrat in the House lost his job Tuesday in a stunning primary upset. Mitt Romney moved closer to an office in Washington, just not the oval one. That's still occupied by President Donald Trump, who declared victory as voters across seven states continued pushing the two major parties on divergent paths in a turbulent era.

Here are some key takeaways from the latest round of voting ahead of the November midterms.

A New York stunner, big Maryland victory. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez's ouster of Rep. Joe Crowley was more evidence that the Democratic Party's left wing is going to be a force to contend with for years to come.

The 28-year-old community organizer has never held political office and ran a shoestring campaign. But she managed to defeat a top Democratic House leader who had eyes on the speaker's gavel from his safe New York City seat Tuesday.

Ocasio-Cortez's win is a sign that Democrats are hungry for generational change and some are open to unabashedly liberal policies.

Ocasio-Cortez backed single-payer health insurance, a federal jobs guarantee and abolishing ICE as the nation's immigration policing agency. She cast Crowley, a 56-year-old white male with plenty of Wall Street campaign cash, as elitist and disconnected from his diverse constituents.

Her message won't necessarily play everywhere. The Queens district is far more liberal than the moderate areas Democrats are hoping to flip in November.

But it's likely to embolden the left as the Democratic Party tries to strike the right balance between harnessing the energy of progressive activists while putting up candidates with broad enough appeal.

Other New York Democrats, including Rep. Yvette Clarke, faced close calls.

In Maryland, former NAACP chief Ben Jealous' nomination for Maryland governor wasn't an upset, but gave progressives another momentous win. With backing from liberal icon Ben Sanders, Jealous outpaced Prince George's County executive Rushern Baker.

Democratic establishment holds elsewhere. Tuesday was huge for the progressive movement, but it still doesn't reverse what Democratic primary voters have been doing for weeks: choosing nominees, particularly for the House, who come from the party's mainstream and often enjoy party backing.

That trend mostly continued Tuesday, including in GOP-held districts that will determine which party controls the House.

Update New Yorkers coalesced around state lawmaker Anthony Brindisi, the Washington establishment choice, to try to unseat vulnerable Republican Rep. Claudia Tenney. Suburban Denver Democrats took the same course, giving former Army Ranger Jason Crow the nod to take on Rep. Mike Coffman

in a district that is a battleground every two years. Trump lost there by 9 percentage points in 2016.

In a neighboring liberal Colorado district, Rep. Diana DeGette withstood a primary challenge from the left.

White House has a good night. Trump went all in for South Carolina Gov. Henry McMaster, returning the favor of McMaster's early 2016 support with an election eve rally that presaged McMaster's comfortable but competitive primary runoff win over political newcomer John Warren.

It was vintage Trump. McMaster is a three-decade mainstay in South Carolina, the kind of political creature Trump lambastes in Washington. But McMaster, then the lieutenant governor, was the first statewide elected official anywhere to back Trump over myriad GOP presidential rivals.

Two other candidates backed by Trump also won Tuesday. Romney became the GOP nominee and likely November victor for a Senate seat from Utah. New York Rep. Daniel Donovan dispatched former Rep. Michael Grimm, who sought to regain his old seat after completing a federal prison stint for felony tax evasion.

But Trump's endorsement is still complicated. The results further solidify Trump's hold on the Republican Party, but it doesn't necessarily clarify what that means.

In choosing McMaster, South Carolina Republicans who love Trump opted for a near-career politician over a self-made businessman who styled his outsider bid after the president's path to the White House. In New York, Donovan won despite having voted against the GOP tax cuts that rank as Trump's biggest domestic policy achievement thus far.

And Romney, though he's toned down his criticism of Trump considerably from when he called him a "con artist" in 2016, has maintained that he won't be a silent rubber stamp for a president who still gives him pause.

So it's still an open question as to whether it's more important simply to have Trump's endorsement or to share his profile and show voters an authentic alliance.

A deeply concerned, unhappy electorate. Associated Press interviews with voters around the country Tuesday suggested a predictably divided midterm electorate, but perhaps even more starkly, one that is profoundly uncomfortable with the course and tone of national politics.

In Colorado, independent Vincent Coates, 32, said Trump's overall approach leaves him looking for candidates interested in "healthy communication and working together" instead of playing "games on this 'false news.'"

Of course, both parties typically view midterms as base elections decided by which side turns out more of its core supporters. So that, in combination with Trump's tendency toward blood sport, almost certainly means voters wanting polite policy debate won't find it in 2018.



ROCK BOWMER/AP

Former GOP presidential nominee Mitt Romney greets supporters during an election night party Tuesday in Orem, Utah.

Romney rolls to victory

Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — Flashing his trademark smile and touting a patched-up relationship with the president, Mitt Romney rolled through the Republican primary in his adopted Utah on Tuesday and took another step in his political comeback that would have him assume the Senate seat of retiring Orrin Hatch.

President Donald Trump congratulated Romney on the landslide victory, tweeting that "a great and loving family will be coming to D.C."

Romney celebrated the win at sunset in front of picturesque mountains, surrounded by his wife, Ann, and some of their children and grandchildren as supporters munched hot dogs and snow cones.

The former presidential candidate promised to "make sure that

the example I set as a leader is consistent with the values of our state and the great founding values of the United States of America" in Washington.

Romney has said he'll speak out if the president says or does anything "significant" that is racist, sexist or anti-immigrant. But his tone has changed markedly since the 2016 presidential campaign, when he blasted Trump as a "phony" and a "fraud."

This year, Romney predicted Trump will be re-elected and accepted the president's endorsement in the Senate race.

Romney defeated GOP state lawmaker Mike Kennedy, who had forced him into a primary by winning the vote of a hard right-leaning group of core GOP party members at the state convention in April. Neither received 60 percent of delegates' votes to secure the nomination outright.

Colo. primary sees left-versus-Trump showdown

DENVER — Colorado's primary delivered a left-versus-Trump showdown for this year's gubernatorial elections, with Democratic U.S. Rep. Jared Polis squaring off against Republican state Treasurer Walker Stapleton for a seat that Republicans haven't held in this purple state in more than a decade.

The liberal Polis, a five-term congressman, and Stapleton, who embraced President Donald Trump's immigration and tax policies, wasted no time in trad-

ing barbs following their primary victories Tuesday.

"Make no mistake: As governor, Jared Polis will raise every tax and fee he can to take more money from hardworking Coloradans," Stapleton said.

"People are tired of hearing that divisive political rhetoric," Polis said. "They want a governor who can unite rather than divide them. I can work with Trump when we need to, but I am not beholden to him."

From the Associated Press

NATION

High court deals blow to public sector unions

Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court dealt labor unions a sharp defeat Wednesday, ruling that teachers, police officers and other public employees cannot be forced to pay dues or fees to support their unions.

By a 5 to 4 vote, the justices overturned a 41-year-old precedent and ruled that the 1st Amendment protects these employees from being required to support a private group whose views may differ from theirs.

The decision, in *Janus vs. AFS-CME*, strikes down laws in California, New York and 20 other mostly Democratic-leaning states that authorize unions to negotiate contracts that require all employees to pay a so-called fair share fee to cover the cost of collective bargaining.

In 1977, when public sector unions were getting established, the high court said teachers and other public employees may not be forced to pay full union dues if some of the money went for political contributions. But the justices upheld the lesser fair share fees on the theory that all of the employees benefited from a union contract and its grievance procedures.

Wednesday's more conservative court disagreed and said employees have a right not to give any support to a union. These payments were described as a form of "compelled speech" which violates the 1st Amendment.

The anti-union National Right to Work Foundation, which funded the challenge, predicted the ruling would free more than

5 million public employees from supporting their unions.

For the unions, which traditionally support Democrats, the ruling will mean an immediate loss of some funding and a gradual erosion in their membership. Union officials fear that an unknown number of employees will quit paying dues if doing so is entirely optional.

The ruling split the court along ideological and partisan lines. The five justices who formed the majority were all Republican appointees. The four dissenters were appointed by Democratic presidents.

The outcome comes as no surprise to the unions or their lawyers. Three years ago, the justices had before them an identical free speech challenge to union fees brought

by Rebecca Friedrichs, a California teacher. The five conservative justices appeared set to strike down the union fees, but Justice Antonin Scalia died suddenly in February 2016. A month later, the court announced it was divided 4-4 and could not issue a ruling.

The current case was launched by Illinois Gov. Bruce Rauner shortly after he took office. He sued to stop the forced collection of union fees, but a federal judge in Chicago said he had no standing to sue since he did not have to pay the fees. So Mark Janus, a state employee from Springfield, stepped forward as a plaintiff.

He lost in the 7th Circuit Court in Chicago because such union fees were illegal under the court's previous precedent.

Pittsburgh cop charged in teen's fatal shooting

Associated Press

EAST PITTSBURGH, Pa. — A white police officer was charged Wednesday with criminal homicide in the fatal shooting of an unarmed black teenager who fled a traffic stop, and investigators say the officer gave inconsistent statements about whether he saw a gun in the teen's hand.

The charge against East Pittsburgh Officer Michael Rosfeld is outlined in a criminal complaint that said the officer first told investigators that Antwon Rose Jr., 17, turned his hand toward him when he ran from the car and he "saw something dark he perceived as a gun."

During a second recap of the shooting, Rosfeld told investigators he did not see a gun and he was not sure if the teen's arm was pointed at him when he fired.

Rosfeld, 30, turned himself in Wednesday morning and was arraigned and released on \$250,000 bond. Rosfeld, who was sworn in just hours before the shooting but had been working at the police department for a couple of weeks, is scheduled to appear in court July 6.

The district attorney's office did not immediately return a call for comment, but released a statement saying the office argued against granting bail to Rosfeld

because the charge carries a sentence of life in prison.

Attorneys representing Rose's family did not immediately return a request for comment on the charge. A funeral for Rose was held Monday.

Rosfeld pulled over the car Rose was a passenger in the night of June 19, about 15 minutes after reports of a drive-by shooting in nearby North Braddock.

A 22-year-old man was shot in the abdomen in the drive-by and was treated at a hospital and released.

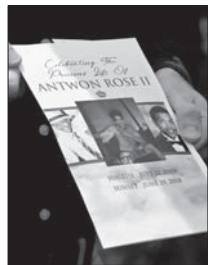
A witness described a car from that shooting that matched the one Rose was a passenger in. A

bystander from a nearby home captured video of a portion of the stop and the shooting.

In the video, as Rosfeld is shown taking the driver of the car into custody the passenger doors can be seen opening and Rose and the other teen running from the car. The officer fires three shots.

Rosfeld has been on administrative leave since the shooting occurred.

Two guns were found in the car and an empty gun magazine was found in Rose's pocket, but investigators said Rose did not have a weapon when he was shot.



KETH SHAKOIC/AP

Kyle Fogarty holds the program for the funeral for Antwon Rose Jr. on Monday in Swissvale, Pa.

Hospitals grapple with injected opioid shortage

Associated Press

TRENTON, N.J. — There is another opioid crisis happening in the U.S., and it has nothing to do with the overdose epidemic. Hospitals are frequently running out of widely used injected painkillers.

Manufacturing shortages are forcing many doctors and pharmacists to sometimes ration injected opioids, reserving them for the patients suffering most. Other patients get slower acting or less effective pain pills, alternatives with more side effects or even sedation.

Medical groups are urging regulators to help, saying some people having surgery, fighting cancer or suffering with severe burns are getting inadequate pain control. They also say short-ages frequently cause medication switches that could lead to deadly mistakes.

Earlier this month, the American Medical Association declared drug shortages a public health crisis, saying it will urge federal agencies to examine the problem as a national security threat and perhaps designate medicine factories as critical infrastructure.

Injected opioid shortages have happened before, in 2001 and 2010, but they weren't as acute and long-lived, experts say.

The shortages started hitting hospitals last summer after the Food and Drug Administration found sterility and other serious problems at a Pfizer factory in Kansas. The company, which makes 60 percent of the country's injected opioids, had to slash production to fix the problems.

Hospitals also are grappling with shortages of regional anesthesia — local injections of lidocaine, bupivacaine and a third painkiller standard for eye surgery, orthopedic procedures and knee and hip replacements.

Valerie Jensen, FDA's head of drug shortages, said the shortages triggered by Pfizer's problems may ease slightly in the next few months.

The three much smaller makers of injected opioids — Fresenius Kabi, West Ward and Akorn — have begun making more. They're putting factory workers on overtime, adding more shifts and switching some manufacturing lines from less crucial medicines to injected opioids.

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NATION

DOJ: Congress must legislate on immigration

By ANNE FLAHERTY
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Justice Department on Wednesday said a judge's order to reunite families separated at the border "makes it even more imperative" that Congress pass legislation that would enable it "to simultaneously enforce the law and keep families together."

Otherwise, the administration says, "lawlessness at the border will continue."

The administration was responding to a federal judge's order Tuesday that U.S. border authorities must reunite separated families within 30 days. If the children are younger than 5, they must be reunited with families within 14 days of the order.

The order poses logistical problems for the administration and its "zero tolerance" policy on illegal border crossings. That policy resulted in more than 2,000 children separated from their families in recent weeks, according to the government, and placed in government-contracted shelters while the adults are detained.

U.S. District Judge Dana Sabraw in San Diego, an appointee of President George W. Bush, issued a nationwide injunction on future family separations unless the parent is deemed unfit or doesn't want to be with the child. The judge's order also requires the government to provide phone contact between parents and their children within 10 days.

President Donald Trump had already signed an order ending family separations and said families would be detained together. But Sabraw's order forces the administration to adhere to a time-

line and quickly address families affected by the hard-line policy embraced this past spring.

Health and Human Services, which takes charge of the children, referred questions to the Justice Department.

"Last night's court decision makes it even more imperative that Congress finally act to give federal law enforcement the ability to simultaneously enforce the law and keep families together," the Justice Department wrote in a statement. "Without this action by Congress, lawlessness at the border will continue, which will only lead to predictable results — more heroin and fentanyl pushed by Mexican cartels plaguing our communities, a surge in MS-13 gang members, and an increase in the number of human trafficking prosecutions."

Both chambers of Congress are working on legislation aimed at ending separation of migrant families, but there's not been agreement on including a specific timetable in the legislation.

It's unclear how legislation might enable Attorney General Jeff Sessions to continue the zero tolerance policy without separating families or placing children in jail-like settings. The Obama administration at one point tried housing families in special detention centers while immigration judges reviewed their cases. But a federal judge ruled the arrangement violated a long-standing agreement barring kids from jail-like settings, even with their parents. The government then began releasing families into the U.S. pending notification of their next court date — a policy Sessions and Trump have derided as "catch and release."

Sanchez said his nonprofit has located many of the parents who have been arrested for trying to cross the U.S.-Mexico border so, if the opportunity arose, they could move quickly to reunite the



RICHARD VOGL/AP

Clergy protest border policy

A member of a clergy group is arrested during a protest in front of Federal Courthouse in Los Angeles on Tuesday. Immigrant rights advocates asked a federal judge to order the release of parents separated from their children at the border as demonstrators decrying the Trump administration's immigration crackdown were arrested Tuesday at a rally ahead of an appearance by Attorney General Jeff Sessions.

Shelter chief ready for reunions

By ROBIN McDOWELL
Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas — The chief executive officer of the nation's largest shelters for immigrant children says he's "ready now" to start reuniting hundreds of babies and young kids with their families.

Juan Sanchez, of the nonprofit Southwest Key Programs, made the comments hours before a judge in California ordered U.S. border authorities to bring separated families together within 30 days of a late Tuesday ruling. If children are younger than 5, they must be reunited within the next 14 days.

Sanchez said his nonprofit has located many of the parents who have been arrested for trying to cross the U.S.-Mexico border so, if the opportunity arose, they could move quickly to reunite the

families.

"We're ready today," said Sanchez, who had been fearful of a long, drawn-out process.

Sanchez earlier said parents' cases would likely have to first make their way through the legal system. Only then could the federal Office of Refugee Resettlement give the go-ahead to put families back together. He said there appeared to be a lack of urgency on behalf of the government, and he worried that the process could take months.

More than 2,000 children were separated from their parents as part of the Trump administration's recent "zero tolerance" crackdown on illegal immigration — and around 600 of them are in Southwest Key facilities around the country.

It's not clear how border authorities will meet the deadline

set by the California judge.

Earlier Tuesday, Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar refused to be pinned down on how long it would take. He said his department does extensive vetting of parents to make sure they are not traffickers masquerading as parents.

Sanchez finds himself in the center of political controversy after agreeing to take in more than 600 children who were stripped from their parents.

Of those, 152 are younger than 5, including some babies and toddlers. The rest are between 6 and 11 years old.

Newly planned family detention space could allow recently separated children to be housed with their parents, Sanchez said, adding that would not be optimal but would be better than keeping them apart.

Republicans grill FBI agent who said he would 'stop' Trump

By MARY CLARE JALONICK
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — An FBI agent who worked on investigations into Democrat Hillary Clinton and President Donald Trump's campaign testified behind closed doors to a House committee on Wednesday as GOP lawmakers stepped up efforts to highlight what they say is bias at the Justice Department.

Peter Strzok exchanged anti-Trump texts with a colleague, FBI attorney Lisa Page, as both worked on the Clinton investigation and briefly on special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into ties between Trump's campaign and Russia. House Republicans have seized on the texts as part of multiple investigations into

the Justice Department, the FBI and decisions that both made during the 2016 presidential election.

In one of the texts, from August 2016, Strzok wrote, "We'll stop it," in reference to a potential Trump election win.

The barrage of GOP criticism against the Justice Department comes just a few months before the midterm elections and amid intense sparring between the parties over Mueller's investigation. Democrats have accused Republicans of trying to undermine Mueller's investigation for political gain.

Trump criticized the closed-door interview earlier with Strzok this week, saying that it should be "shown to the public on live television, not a closed door hearing that nobody will see."

House Judiciary Chairman Robert Goodlatte, R-Va., has said there will also be a public hearing with Strzok.

A seasoned counterintelligence agent, Strzok had a leading role on the investigation into whether Clinton illegally mishandled classified information through her use of a private email server while secretary of state. He later joined Mueller's team investigating Russian election interference, but was reassigned last summer after the discovery of anti-Trump text messages he had traded with the FBI lawyer. Page had already left Mueller's team.

A report released earlier this month by the Justice Department's internal watchdog faulted top department officials, including former FBI Director James Comey, for their handling of the probe of

Clinton's emails. The report also detailed the communications by Strzok and others criticizing Trump.

While strongly criticizing the way the Clinton investigation was handled, the inspector general ultimately found no evidence that bias affected the decision not to bring charges against her.

The Strzok interview is one of several meetings this week in which House Republicans are criticizing the Justice Department.

At a contentious session Tuesday, the GOP-led Judiciary panel approved a new resolution requesting the department provide documents despite an existing agreement to do so that was announced by House Speaker Paul Ryan's office over the weekend.

NATION

Cheap pot on sale as Calif. testing nears

By BRIAN MELLEY
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Bargain basement bud is on the menu in California, but you need to act fast to cash in on the cheap weed.

Regulations being phased in six months after the state broadly legalized marijuana require that pot sold after Saturday meet strict quality standards, so retailers unloading untested inventory are offering blowout prices.

Deep discounts on everything from edibles to joints reflect the last days of the heady first phase of legal recreational pot. They could be followed by empty shelves as many stores scramble to restock with properly tested and packaged products.

"You can smell it. There's a certain desperation from stores that bought too much and they have to dump it," said John Atari, CEO of Source Cannabis Farms, a licensed cultivator in Los Angeles. "There's going to be a big shortage of clean product come July 1."

At Firehaus, a shop along an LA freeway, a fire sale of sorts unfolded this month with a 50 percent off "summer blowout" sale advertised on a popular marijuana app and texted and emailed to regular customers.

Patrons leaving the brick storefront on a recent day were happy to double their value but were unaware of the reason behind the bargains.

A half-dozen of those interviewed said they welcomed testing designed to weed out pesticides and contaminants such as solvents and mold, though they were largely unconcerned about the safety of the cannabis they've used for years.

"I smoked pot for 40 years that wasn't tested, from dealers on the street, and it smelled like anything from gasoline to perfume," said Catherine Lanzaarotta, who stocked up on "Blue Dream." "So I've never had that concern."

Testing will also examine concentrations and potency of the ingredient that gives users a buzz.

The change in rules was part of the state's decision to allow the industry in its legal infancy to get a running start at the beginning of the year. Shops were given



Above: Laboratory manager Emily Savage uses an instrument to photograph cannabis samples at CW Analytical Laboratories in Oakland, Calif. California's new rules require testing of marijuana for pesticides and contaminants and testing edibles to determine concentrations of the mind-altering ingredient THC.
Left: Lab technician Jessica Ibarra, left, and chemist Tommie Griffin work in the lab.

JEFF CHIU/AP



six months to burn through supplies of grass grown and cookies and other products made without strict testing requirements.

Any marijuana harvested this year or for sale July 1 must meet quality and safety standards or be destroyed.

Before the legalization of recreational marijuana, testing of

pot sold for medical purposes was largely done for marketing. Growers could promote the potency of their product or the fact that it was free of contaminants.

Robert Martin, co-founder and CEO of CW Analytical Laboratories in Oakland, said the voluminous new rules are draconian, with a mandate to test for heavy

metals, which he said is unnecessary, and one to keep tested samples 45 days. There are also requirements about what technicians must wear, and lab employees have to pick up test samples directly from suppliers.

"The new regulations have us twisting," Martin said. "We feel like we're trying to do yoga on

two mats."

There are concerns that the 28 testing facilities licensed by the state will not be enough, though labs said even with a spike in recent months they have been able to handle capacity.

A larger concern is a lag in testing as business owners banked on delayed implementation of the new rules. That could put them in a precarious position as they try to push product through a limited pipeline to restock shops with clean weed.

The fear is there will be a repeat of what Oregon experienced two years ago as distributors held out for a rules reprieve that never materialized and held up the supply chain.

The resulting bottleneck at labs meant testing that should have taken days dragged on for weeks, said Lori Glauser, chief operating officer of EVIO Labs, which has locations in California, Oregon, Colorado, Florida and Massachusetts.

Glauser said the recent surge in business she's seen indicates a similar scenario in California that will lead to a temporary shortage of marijuana in dispensaries once they can no longer sell untested product.

Some shops prepared for the new regulations by gradually replacing pot they sold with products that pass the tests.

Jamie Garzot said she reopened her Shasta Lake medical marijuana shop to recreational customers Jan. 1 with the same untested inventory as the day before.

But by February, she estimated, about 15 percent of inventory at 530 Cannabiss had been approved by testing labs. In April, that jumped to about 50 percent, and earlier this month Garzot said she figured about 95 percent of her goods passed muster.

"Everyone in the game knew this was coming," she said. "My hope is that everybody has been doing their job getting systems dialed in for an uninterrupted supply chain."

She was waiting until the final days of the month to see what remained in her stockpiles that could go in a limited blowout sale.

Police: Machete-wielding Montana woman forced ex to have sex

By MEAGAN FLYNN
The Washington Post

Late Friday night, police in Great Falls, Mont., received a call from a man in distress: He had come home to find his ex-girlfriend hiding behind his bedroom door, wielding a machete.

She had somehow broken into the house while he was away, he said, and when he opened the door and walked into his room she confronted him from behind and held the machete to his neck.

Then, according to a probable cause affidavit, she told him to take off his clothes.

Samantha Ray Mears, 19, now faces six charges after police say she forced her ex-

boyfriend to have sex with her at machete-point, damaged his property and fled just as police were arriving. She is charged with aggravated battery, assault with a weapon, unlawful restraint, partner family member assault and two counts of criminal mischief in Cascade County, Mont. It was not immediately clear whether Mears had an attorney. She allegedly told police the man kidnapped her and then gave her a machete to protect herself,



Mears

according to the Great Falls Tribune.

The man told police that once she told him to undress she ordered him onto the bed.

He complied because he feared what she might do to him. Mears then took off her pants, climbed on top of him and started having sex with him, still holding the machete, the affidavit alleges.

When the man tried to push her off, she bit him on the arm and kept going, he said.

"After the intercourse," the affidavit said, "Mears sat on the bed, still armed with the machete, with her back against the wall."

An argument began as soon as the sex ended, the man said, leading Mears to rip a

piece of trim off his wall and then urinate on his bed, according to the affidavit.

He found an opening to step away to pretend to call "Doug," but really he was calling 911.

Police said Mears fled the unidentified man's home just as the cops were pulling up to his house.

The man offered up his evidence once they arrived, according to the affidavit: a bite mark on his arm and pictures he took while Mears sat on the bed with her machete.

Mears has a history of assault charges against a man, who she had been dating for approximately seven years, the Great Falls Tribune reported.

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OPINION

Hodeida siege sparks hope for Yemen deal

By DAVID IGNATIUS
Washington Post Writers Group

The brutal war in Yemen may be moving toward a tipping point following a controversial siege of the port of Hodeida by a coalition led by Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

A U.N. mediator and a top Emirati diplomat expressed hope last week for a negotiated deal with Houthi rebels that could relieve pressure on the city. But they disagreed about details, and humanitarian groups warned that the assault is choking relief supplies for Yemen's tormented civilian population.

Yemen is caught in a proxy war between the Saudi-UAE coalition, which backs the Yemeni government, and Iran, which supports the Houthis. The Saudis and Emiratis invaded in 2015 after the Houthis seized the capital, Sanaa. But the war bogged down, with heavy civilian casualties. The Houthis alienated many Yemenis last year by killing their ally, former President Ali Abdullah Saleh, after he switched sides and backed the Saudis.

Martin Griffiths, the U.N. special envoy for Yemen, said in a statement June 21 that he was "confident that we can reach an agreement to end this escalation of violence in Hodeida." News reports said the Houthis might be willing to turn management of the port over to the U.N., easing the transport of food and other supplies.

The Hodeida battle has been one of the most important of the three-year war.

Anwar Gargash, the UAE's minister of state for foreign affairs, also expressed hope for a deal in a telephone interview. But he said the plan the Houthis seem ready to accept — for U.N. oversight of the port — isn't sufficient, and that the UAE and its allies want complete withdrawal of Houthi fighters from the city.

"We feel that if the Houthis are out of Hodeida, they will be much more realistic," Gargash said. "The smart thing is to push hard on the perimeter, not enter the city, and say to the U.N., 'Go back and get a better deal.'"

Post mediation efforts have foundered on just such disagreements about terms. A truce that seemed near in Sanaa many months ago, for example, was scuttled by Saudi and UAE demands that the Houthis surrender their heavy weapons, which they refused to do. In Hodeida, the Houthis don't have much heavy weaponry, Gargash said.

The Hodeida battle has been one of the most important of the three-year war. UAE commanders moved this month to assault the port city, hoping to tip the balance

of the protracted conflict. Last week, the UAE-led forces seized control of the airport just outside the city center and then called on the Houthis to withdraw.

"We don't want to move further than the airport," Gargash said. While he wouldn't rule out an assault on the city center, he said: "It shouldn't be fighting in the streets or homes. We don't want that."

The Hodeida offensive has been condemned by humanitarian groups that said the attack would further impede relief efforts. The port is the main transit point for NGOs bringing food and other assistance into the battered nation of Yemen. Amnesty International warned in a new report this week that the siege had meant a "stranglehold" of the city.

"We feel that taking Hodeida will shorten the war," Gargash said in explaining the rationale for the offensive. "We've broken the stalemate," by taking the airport, he argued. If the U.N. can reach a deal for evacuation of fighters from the city, he maintained, "it will lay the groundwork for a broader political solution" in other parts of Yemen.

Saudi officials, similarly, believe that their position has grown stronger in Yemen. Like the UAE officials, they keep insisting that if they maintain the squeeze, the Houthis will crack.

Perhaps Hodeida will produce the elusive negotiated deal. Meanwhile, the war grinds on and civilian suffering continues.

US should try diplomacy instead of detentions

By JOSEPH R. BIDEN JR.
Special To The Washington Post

When President Donald Trump signed an executive order ending the separation of children from their families at the border, it did not end the crisis in Central America. Nor should it relieve our moral anguish at seeing the poorest and most vulnerable treated in ways that are fundamentally at odds with our nation's values.

The moment also calls for a renewed focus on the so-called Northern Triangle of Central America — the countries of El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras, which together represent the overwhelming source of migrants crossing our southern border. Unless we address the root causes driving migration from this region, any solutions focused solely on border protection and immigration enforcement will be insufficient.

This is terrain I know all too well. In 2014, President Barack Obama asked me to lead the international response to the surge of migrants that ultimately resulted in 68,000 unaccompanied children from Central America crossing into the United States. That summer, I met with Central American leaders in Guatemala to chart a plan to reduce migration, as well as to make it clear that undocumented migration was risky, dangerous and offered scant hope of legal status or citizenship.

It soon became evident that migration from Central America could not be resolved by stronger enforcement at the U.S. border, let alone by building a wall. Instead, we needed to tackle the drivers of migration: crime, violence, corruption and lack of opportunity. We knew the cost of investing in a secure and prosperous Central America was modest compared with the cost of allowing violence and poverty to fester.

Following intensive negotiations between the Obama administration and the

Northern Triangle presidents, Congress provided \$750 million in 2016 to fund a whole-of-government effort to effect deep and lasting change in Central America. Because Central American governments had long been perceived — with good reason — as corrupt, inept and incapable of delivering basic services to their citizens, I supported Congress in tying the aid package to concrete commitments by regional governments to clean up their police, increase tax collection, fight corruption and create the opportunities necessary to convince would-be migrants to remain in their countries.

In turn, the countries pledged billions of dollars in their own money to deliver on the promise of prosperity, security and governance. We also implemented new programs to help those in immediate danger by allowing them to apply for asylum without the dangerous journey to the United States.

By the end of the Obama administration, we began to see results. The murder rate in Honduras dropped by a third since its peak in 2011. Guatemala improved its tax collection and made inroads against corruption, renewing a vital U.N.-backed anti-corruption commission until 2019. El Salvador was aggressively targeting the financial networks of transnational criminal organizations. Meanwhile, energy cooperation in the region extended access to electricity in countries such as Honduras, where as much as 12 percent of the population is still disconnected.

But this progress required face-to-face diplomacy to convince leaders of these nations to act against their own political instincts and to establish clear benchmarks that demonstrated a real will to change. We knew that sustained, bipartisan U.S. engagement — and, yes, pressure — were necessary for progress.

The Trump administration came into office determined to slash aid to Central America, and only partially succeeded be-

cause of the pushback from engaged members of Congress on both sides of the aisle. Still, U.S. assistance has fallen by nearly 20 percent, from \$750 million in 2016 to \$615 million this year.

After a promising early conference in Miami on security and prosperity in Central America in June 2017, attended by Vice President Mike Pence and several Cabinet secretaries, the three Northern Triangle presidents have not met jointly with a senior U.S. official in well over a year. By contrast, I met with them three times during my final year in office. Occasional bilateral visits such as the one earlier this month between Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Honduran President Juan Orlando Hernandez cannot replace a comprehensive regional approach to reduce the drivers of migration.

Fortunately, there is still time to build on the policy that emerged from the last major migration crisis in 2014 — a policy modeled in part on the successful, bipartisan approach to Plan Colombia. When the vice president travels this week to Guatemala, the president should send him with a mandate to revive the intense diplomatic and aid efforts that gave rise to the Alliance for Prosperity and opened a window of hope for the most besieged countries in our hemisphere.

We can both strengthen U.S. border security and treat migrants arriving from Central America with dignity and decency instead of cruelty and callousness. But their overwhelming desire to flee their countries and risk everything to enter the United States shows that their governments are still failing them. This migration will only continue unless we keep up the pressure and provide the support to make the Northern Triangle of Central America a prosperous and secure place to call home.

Joseph Biden was vice president of the United States from 2009 to 2017.

NATION



JOHN SPINN, ATLANTA JOURNAL-CONSTITUTION/AP

The police bomb squad responds after a veteran who said he was disgruntled with the Department of Veterans Affairs set himself on fire in protest Tuesday outside the state Capitol in downtown Atlanta.

Air Force veteran sets self on fire to protest VA system

By BEN NADLER
Associated Press

ATLANTA — A man who identified himself as an Air Force veteran strapped fireworks to his chest and lit himself on fire Tuesday in front of the Georgia Capitol in protest of the Veterans Affairs system.

The ordeal prompted the Capitol building to be evacuated and the surrounding streets to be shut down. No one else was hurt.

The man was identified by Georgia Bureau of Investigation spokesperson Nelly Miles as John Michael Watts, 58. The department said he has no current address.

"He had [fireworks] strapped to himself and as I understand doused himself with some additional flammable and set himself on fire," said Capt. Mark Perry of the Georgia Department of Public Safety.

Almost simultaneously, Perry

said, "one of the Capitol troopers saw what was happening, came out, actually had a fire extinguisher and was able to douse him pretty quickly."

Law officers have not provided details about the man's complaints about the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, saying only that he is disgruntled with the system.

"I'm not sure what his history is there, but he is disgruntled with the VA system and is trying to draw some attention to that," Perry said. "He stated something to the effect that he was looking for some help."

Perry said the man's condition wasn't immediately known; he was burned but could still speak to officers. Perry said the man, identified himself as a veteran. He was taken to Grady Memorial Hospital.

Loud explosions can be heard in view of a news conference that

was going on at the time. In the video posted by WSB-TV, Georgia Department of Transportation spokeswoman Natalie Dale pauses several times and looks around nervously as the explosions are heard.

Seconds later, the state troopers who were standing behind her hurry off to investigate. The news conference, on a Georgia law requiring hands-free electronic devices in automobiles, was then abruptly called off.

A Nissan Sentra possibly belonging to the man was parked in front of the Capitol and was investigated by a bomb squad unit on Tuesday afternoon.

"While we can't comment on the specifics of this veteran's case due to patient privacy laws, the department is ensuring he receives the VA care that he needs," Jan Northstar, a spokeswoman for the agency, said in a statement to The Associated Press.

Reality Winner pleads guilty in NSA document leaks case

The Washington Post

A former National Security Agency contractor pleaded guilty Tuesday to mishandling government secrets, as part of a plea deal in which she would serve about five years in prison.

Reality Winner, 26, was arrested a year ago after authorities alleged she gave a top-secret NSA document about Russian hackers targeting U.S. election systems to a media outlet. People familiar with the case identified the outlet as The Intercept.

The case marked the first criminal charges filed during the Trump administration against someone suspected of leaking government secrets to a journalist. Since then, three other individuals have been charged in leak-related investigations.

Prosecutors have said Winner, an Air Force veteran, was motivated by anger over public

denials that Russia sought to influence the outcome of the 2016 election.

Her mother, Billie Winner-Davis, spoke to reporters briefly outside the federal courthouse in Augusta, Ga., after her daughter pleaded guilty to a single felony count of mishandling defense information.

"I'm really proud of Reality. I'm happy that she did this," her mother said. "I think that this will enable her to have peace, and now she can at least look forward to planning for her future. ... I hope that people don't judge her by this one action, by this one mistake."

A former military linguist, Winner held a top-secret security clearance while serving in the Air Force until 2016 and continued to handle classified information as a contractor for Pluribus International, working at Fort Gordon in Georgia.



MICHAEL HOLAHAN, THE AUGUSTA (GA) CHRONICLE/AP

Reality Winner, 26, pleaded guilty at the Federal Courthouse in Augusta, Ga., on Tuesday to leaking a classified document

Reaction mixed to travel ban ruling

By JEFF KAROUB
AND JILYN WATSON
Associated Press

DETROIT — Maryam Bahramipناه is torn between staying with her husband, who came to Michigan from their native Iran, and returning home to see her mother, who suffered a stroke.

With the U.S. Supreme Court's decision Tuesday to uphold President Donald Trump's ban on travel from several mostly Muslim countries, she expects that she can't do both.

"I'm very sad," said Bahramipناه, who cried when she heard about the decision. "I don't know what to do. I really don't know. Now it's official and I don't know."

Muslim individuals and groups, as well as other religious and civil rights organizations, expressed outrage and disappointment at the high court's rejection of a challenge claiming the policy discriminates against Muslims or exceeds the president's authority. Protesters voiced dismay at rallies across the country.

At a protest in New York, Khulud Nashar held back tears as she spoke of her two sons stranded in Yemen. In 2014, she received asylum and her sons were approved to join her in the U.S. But after the U.S. Embassy in Yemen was closed in 2015, their processing was delayed. The last year has been filled with starts and stops for the mother, but today felt like a death blow.

"Today, we were broken. I lost my heart to see my family," said Nashar, who works as a translator.

Not all reaction was negative, however. A nonprofit group that supports Trump's policies called the decision a "tremendous victory."

"Today's Supreme Court ruling is monumental," America First Policies spokeswoman Erin Montgomery said. "It states that denying who can and cannot enter our country does indeed fall within the realm of executive responsibility. Note the word 'responsibility.'"

The travel ban has been fully in place since December, when the justices put the brakes on lower court decisions that had blocked part of it from being enforced. The policy applies to travelers from five countries with overwhelmingly Muslim populations: Iran, Libya, Somalia, Syria and Yemen. It also affects two non-Muslim countries, blocking travelers from North Korea and some Venezuelan government officials and their families.

Detroit-area immigration attorney Farah Al-Kharsan expects chaos at border crossings and other points of entry.

"For anybody who has a nonimmigrant visa who is here — even someone with a green card — I would not recommend that they leave right now," she said. "Once you're outside of the country and you're trying to come in, that's going to be a problem."

For Afnan Salem, a Somali ref-

'We were hoping that at least the Supreme Court would rule at least for fair play and let us be reunited with our families.'

Afnan Salem
Somali refugee

ugee living in Columbus, Ohio, the decision reinforces worries she may never reunite with her grandparents or father.

"We were hoping that at least the Supreme Court would rule at least for fair play and let us be reunited with our families," said Salem, who came to the U.S. eight years ago and has since become a citizen. "But the decision that came out, our hearts are broken."

Jehan Hakim, program coordinator for the Islamic Scholarship Fund in San Francisco, said the ban is unconstitutional. "Regardless of what the government says,"

"It's unconstitutional as the Chinese Exclusion Act, it's unconstitutional as the incarceration of Japanese Americans and it's unconstitutional as the detainment of Latino immigrants," said Hakim, a Yemeni-American. "We will not stop fighting."

As Syrians face violence in their native country and a ban on entering the U.S., the executive director of the Syrian American Council says many are scared.

Suzanne Meriden, the council's executive director, choked up as she said, "It's sad on so many levels. I never cry. We're here to calm people, but I just get stressed out about it all. You try to hold yourself together, but sometimes it's too hard."

The Federation for American Immigration Reform, a conservative group that supports tighter immigration policies, heralded the Supreme Court decision and called it "a great victory for the security of the American people and the rule of law."

Bill O'Keefe, Catholic Relief Services' vice president for government relations, said in a statement that many of the people seeking refuge in the U.S. are victims of the same terrorists Americans are trying to fight, and denying them entry won't make the nation safer.

Bahramipناه, the Iranian woman who lives in Ann Arbor, Mich., had hoped the Supreme Court would end the ban for good this time so her mother would be able to come to the U.S. to celebrate Bahramipناه's birthday next week.

"My mother told me, 'What do I buy you for your birthday?'" Bahramipناه said, choking back tears. "I said, 'Just pray that this ban does not hold forever.'"

WORLD

Malta grants safe haven to aid ship carrying migrants

By COLLEEN BARRY
AND STEPHEN CALLEJA
Associated Press

VALLETTA, Malta — An aid ship stuck at sea for six days will be allowed to dock in Malta and the more than 200 migrants on board will be distributed among eight European Union states, Malta's prime minister announced Wednesday, ending Europe's second impasse in recent weeks over the fate of people saved at sea amid rising political resistance to their welcome.

Joseph Muscat said that once in port, the Lifeline Mission ship would be impounded and the crew placed under investigation for allegedly operating illegally — including violating rescue protocols and operating without the correct registration. The migrants, who were rescued off Libya's coast, would be vetted to determine if they are eligible for political asylum or if they are economic migrants to be sent back to their countries of origin.

Muscat said Malta had no legal obligation since the rescue happened in Libyan waters, but said it was willing to act "before the situation escalates to a humanitarian crisis."

The eight countries to accept vetted migrants from the ship are France, Italy, Luxembourg, Portugal, Ireland, the Netherlands, Belgium and Malta. It was unclear how many each would take.

While Muscat emphasized that the Lifeline case was unique because of the alleged violations of the crew, the refusal by Italy and Malta to open their ports to the ship — and the haggling among EU states over how to distribute the migrants — showed a hardening of positions as EU leaders head into a summit where migra-

tion policies are expected to be debated.

Earlier this month, Italy and Malta both refused port to a French humanitarian ship, forcing some 630 migrants to travel an additional 900 miles to Spain.

The fate of the ship operated by the German group had appeared resolved a day earlier when Italy announced it would take some of the migrants and Malta would open its ports. But Malta later said the ship was not welcome until it had a deal for all of the migrants on board. On Wednesday, Malta allowed the ship to enter its waters to seek shelter from rough sea conditions before announcing it could dock.

Manuel Sarrazin, a lawmaker with the German Green party who is in regular contact with the crew and its supporters, said the situation on board the Lifeline was deteriorating. "Last night they were close to calling emergencies to evacuate two people," Sarrazin told The Associated Press. "Doctors on board were able to stabilize them so the evacuation, which would have been very dangerous, didn't have to take place."

Sarrazin said the passengers are suffering from severe sea sickness due to rough seas. "They are at risk of dehydration," he said. "It's been clear for days that the situation could get worse. There needs to be a solution soon."

At the upcoming summit, Italy will propose a new system for distributing migrants more evenly among EU countries along with ways to discourage economic migrants from leaving Africa. Italy and Greece have borne the brunt of the arrivals in recent years as people make the dangerous sea journey to seek a better life in Europe.



RAJANISH KAKADE/AP

Women shop at a market in Mumbai, India, on Saturday. A Thomas Reuters Foundation report this week ranked India as the world's most dangerous place for women.

India ranked most dangerous place for women, renewing safety debate

By ANNIE GOWEN
The Washington Post

NEW DELHI — A report this week ranking India as the most dangerous country in the world for women has reignited the ongoing debate over women's safety in the vast country.

On Tuesday, the Thomson Reuters Foundation — the philanthropic arm of Reuters media company — released a study that ranked India as the most dangerous place due to its high incidences of sexual violence, lack of access to justice in rape cases, child marriage, female feticide and human trafficking. India outranked such countries as Syria and Afghanistan — second and third — that are currently at war.

Experts interviewed for the poll said that India had topped the list because its government has done little to protect women since a controversial rape and murder of a young student in 2012 prompted widespread outrage and changes in the country's rape laws.

"India has shown utter disregard and disrespect for women — rape, marital rapes, sexual assault and harassment, female infanticide has gone unabated," said Manjunath Gangadhara, an official in the southern state of Karnataka told Thomson Reuters.

The poll — based on a survey of 548 experts on women's issues — ignited an immediate firestorm of controversy on Indian social media where critics blasted it as based on opinion, not facts. The report,

however, noted that reported cases of crimes against women rose 83 percent between 2007 and 2016, where there were four cases of rape every hour.

In addition, India has the most child brides in the world — around a third of all girls are married before their 18th birthday — and its own government estimated earlier this year that there are 63 million "missing" women in the country due to sex-selective abortion as well as 21 million unwanted girls.

Reported rapes in India — 38,947 in 2016 — are on the rise, but its rate of rape per 100,000 people remains far lower than in some Western countries, including the United States, which experts believe is in part due to years of fear and underreporting.

The study kicked up a political debate when India's chief opposition leader, Rahul Gandhi, was criticized Tuesday for tweeting that while the prime minister "tiptoes around his garden making Yoga videos" — a reference to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent fitness video — "India leads Afghanistan, Syria & Saudi Arabia in rape & violence against women. What a shame for our country!"

In April, Modi's top lieutenant, Amit Shah, defended his boss' record on women at a rally, saying that in India "women have a status of a deity" and that the government had instituted many programs to help them — such as Modi's ambitious plan to put a toilet in every Indian home — as well as the country's move to toughen punishments for child rapists after the brutal murder and gang rape of an 8-year-old girl earlier this year that shocked the country.

Officials say outbreak of Ebola in Congo appears to be contained

By MAX BEARAK
The Washington Post

NAIROBI, Kenya — The most serious outbreak of the Ebola virus since an epidemic devastated West Africa two years ago, killed 11,000 people and catapulted the disease back into the global consciousness is almost assuredly over. Out of an abundance of caution, though, health officials will closely monitor the situation for another three weeks before making the final declaration.

As of Wednesday, contacts of the last confirmed case of the virus have passed a 21-day incubation period without showing signs of

infection. That means that no one who was in contact with an infected person needs to be monitored on a daily basis anymore.

A total of 38 cases were confirmed, in which 14 people died. Another 15 people most likely died of the disease as well. For the past three weeks, all suspected cases have turned out to be negative.

For an Ebola outbreak to be officially declared over, however, two incubation periods (a total of 42 days) must pass without any confirmed cases.

And so begins the countdown to the end of Congo's ninth and most worrisome Ebola outbreak. It was declared on May 8, when a cluster

of cases was confirmed deep in the rain forest of the country's Equateur province. Over the next three weeks, the virus made its way to Mbandaka, a regional transport hub and city of 1.2 million along the heavily trafficked Congo and Ruki rivers.

Ebola is far harder to contain in densely populated urban areas, and the possibility of a traveler contracting the disease and taking it to another part of the country increased greatly.

"This outbreak has been the most challenging and complex outbreak the country has ever had to face, mainly because it started in two rural zones at the same time

and quickly reached a city of more than 1 million inhabitants directly connected to Kinshasa, our capital city where 12 million Congolese live," Congo's minister of health, Oly Ilunga, told The Washington Post. "Yet thanks to a rapid national and international mobilization as well as a great government-led coordination of the response, we managed to contain this outbreak in just seven weeks."

According to the minister, 1,706 contacts of those either confirmed or thought to have contracted Ebola were traced and monitored. Contact tracing, as the process is called, requires establishing of a vast surveillance team to watch

people's movements from town to town and reporting any cases of fever that could be Ebola.

That tracing was also used in a new way during this outbreak: to identify candidates for an experimental Ebola vaccine that had been used only once before, in the waning days of the West African epidemic. More than 3,300 people ultimately were administered with the vaccine.

Due to Ebola's prevalence in the country, Congo's health officials have had more practice than anyone else in containing the virus, and they are generally reputed to be the most skilled at it in the world.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Squirrel on video steals doughnut from police

AK ANCHORAGE — Police in Anchorage were on the lookout for a squirrel that made off from their parking lot with a doughnut.

In a video posted on the department's Facebook page Sunday, the squirrel is seen with what appears to be a glazed doughnut clenched in its teeth as it runs through the lot.

The department called it "a straight-up felony" and added "it's rude."

New Zealand man shot entering teen's US home

VA GOOCHLAND — A New Zealand man who traveled to the U.S. home of a 14-year-old girl he had communicated with online was shot by the girl's mother, a sheriff said Monday.

Troy George Skinner, 25, was shot Friday after he allegedly smashed a glass door and tried to enter the home in Goochland, said Goochland County Sheriff James Agnew. Agnew said Skinner bought a knife and duct tape after arriving in the U.S.

The sheriff said the girl's mother saw a man trying to enter her home, warned him several times she had a gun, then fired after he broke the glass on the second door he tried to open. Skinner was struck in the neck and remains hospitalized, police said.

Man accused of severing neighbor's fingertips

MN ST. CLOUD — A St. Cloud man is accused of severing two fingertips of a man who came to his front door last week.

Clarence Junior Hilliard Jr., 67, appeared in Stearns County court Monday on two felony counts of assault with a dangerous weapon.

According to the criminal complaint, a neighbor told police he won't Hilliard's apartment Friday to give him cigarettes. The man told police he kept knocking after Hilliard told him to go away. The complaint says Hilliard opened the door, swung something at the man and cut off two of his fingertips.

The St. Cloud Times reported police found several weapons inside Hilliard's apartment, including a machete apparently with blood on it.

Animal activist arrested after chicken truck crash

WA BATTLE GROUND — An animal rights activist was arrested after taking hold of a chicken that was among the thousands being healed by a truck that crashed.

The Columbian reported that the tractor-trailer landed on its side while trying to make a U-turn Monday afternoon near Battle Ground.

That caused more than 5,000 chickens in small cages that were loaded for a Foster Farms processing plant to spill onto the road. It's unclear how many

THE CENSUS

\$14.8M

The list price of former New York Yankees star Derek Jeter's upstate New York castle. The Times-Herald Record reported the castle, known locally as the Tiedemann Castle, has six bedrooms and a dozen bathrooms, alongside four indoor kitchens and one outdoor kitchen. The property also includes a 6-foot stone wall, a turret, an infinity pool, a lagoon and a small replica of the Statue of Liberty.



Long journey

Standup paddler, Victoria Burgess, 33, of the United States, started her attempt to cross the Florida Straits at Hemingway Marina in Havana, Cuba, on Tuesday. Burgess, who works as a firefighter, called the journey "Chica Libre Crossing," which means "free girl" in Spanish.

PHOTOS BY DESMOND BOYLAN/AP

chickens died.

As traffic was blocked for hours for clean-up, about 30 animal rights activists showed up to the scene to protest. One woman was arrested because she picked up a chicken and refused to give it back, though she hasn't booked.

Zoo finds escaped parrot scared by blimp

NE OMAHA — A macaw that flew away from Omaha's zoo after apparently being spooked by the Goodyear blimp was found in a nearby neighborhood.

The Omaha World-Herald reported the macaw, named Cayenne, was out during the zoo's Birds of Flight show Sunday morning when it was startled by the blimp drifting past. The bird flew out of an amphitheater and past the zoo's boundaries.

Henry Doorly Zoo & Aquarium staff sought the public's help, and on Monday morning a nearby resident tipped them off about the bird's whereabouts.

Staffers spotted the bird, and after flying to another tree it came down when called.

Officials: Beware of snakes in pool noodles

AZ BUCKEYE — A fire department in metro Phoenix warned users of pool noodles to be on the lookout for snakes hiding inside the flotation devices.

The Buckeye Fire Department said it issued its warning after learning about a rattlesnake popping out of a pool noodle in a pool. The agency said the snake didn't attack anyone.

The fire department said there have been other reports of snakes hiding in pool noodles left outdoors near bushes and block walls.

Child finds gun, fires shot inside Ikea store

IN FISHERS — Police said a child fired a shot from a loaded handgun after finding it in a sofa at an Ikea store in suburban Indianapolis.

Fishers police said no one was injured from the gunshot.

Police Sgt. Tom Weiger said the handgun's owner wasn't aware the weapon dropped from his

pants when he sat on the sofa. The child later found the gun in the sofa cushions.

Weiger said no arrests were immediately made.

Private island is going on the auction block

WV SMITHERS — A private island in West Virginia is going on the auction block next month.

News outlets reported the 17-acre Eastern Wheeler Island in the Kanawha River in Fayette County will be sold July 19 at Montgomery City Hall.

Demarcus Smith has owned the island since 1985. He bought it to restore a former World War II airstrip but had to abandon the work. The island is 8 miles from Kanawha Falls.

Civil War vet gets military headstone

SD ALEXANDRIA — A Civil War veteran has been honored with a military headstone on his grave in South Dakota more than a century after

his death.

The Daily Republic reported that the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War held a remembrance ceremony Saturday for Cpl. Timothy Peters in Alexandria. Peters served as a corporal from 1861 to 1865 in a Wisconsin company. He mostly fought in Missouri and Arkansas.

Peters survived the Civil War, got married, had children and moved to Hanson County. He died in 1906 and was buried without an official military headstone.

Boy bitten, 3 others are pursued by fox

NH MEREDITH — Police said a 3-year-old New Hampshire boy was bitten several times by a fox that also went after three others.

WMUR-TV reported the fox was fatally shot and was being tested for rabies.

The boy's mother in Meredith said he was bitten on his arm, hand, and foot on Saturday. An officer later said a fox had attacked him, and it ran after two other officers before it was shot.

From wire reports

FACES



'I WANT TO BE THE NEXT ROCK'

By JAKE COYLE
Associated Press

Shaquille O'Neal is already known by many names. Superman. The Diesel. The Big Aristotle. But he would like to add another to the list: Movie Star.

In "Uncle Drew," which opens Friday, he plays one of the former basketball stars (all of them real pros under heavy old-man makeup) reunited by Kyrie Irving's titular character (first created for a TV ad) to compete in a street-ball tournament at Harlem's Rucker Park. Shaq's character, known as Big Fella, is found run-

ning a martial arts dojo.

But post-NBA life has been far more successful for the four-time NBA champion. He's an analyst on TNT's "Inside the NBA," a popular pitchman and an active entrepreneur and investor. He has dabbled in everything from professional wrestling to law enforcement. He's even a voice setting on the Waze navigation app. This summer he will tour under the name DJ Diesel.

"Uncle Drew" is just one of the projects that the 46-year-old O'Neal has going. Among his favorites is a TBS show he's developing with Ken Jeong. Comparing their chemistry to Chris Tucker and Jackie Chan, O'Neal says it will be "Seinfeld-epic-ish."

Associated Press: What do you miss about playing in the NBA?

I miss all of it. I miss interacting with the fans. I miss having the unexpected adrenaline rush, the doubts, the fear, overcoming the fear. I miss everything.

Do you play anymore?

No, not at all.

How come?

I ain't got it. Right now, I'm relinquishing all my powers to my son, who's going to UCLA.

That's a shame. I'd love to see you and Charles Barkley play one-on-one.

Yeah, Charles would lose.

Your post-NBA career has been uncommonly busy. Why?

Seventy percent of all professional athletes have nothing, not even a job, after they're done. The fact that I couldn't even call a franchise to get an interview to be a coach frightened me. So nothing was simple. Educate yourself, be nice to people and save your money. If you do that, you should be OK.

You have numerous TV shows and



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films in development. What are your Hollywood aspirations?

I want to be as big as Rock.

Dwayne Johnson is the biggest movie star on the planet. That's settling a high bar.

We come from the same place: athletes that transition. That's my goal. I want similar type movies. I want to get thrillers. I want to get dramas. I want to do comedies. I want to be the next Rock. I want to do a thriller where I'm like a hero and beat up all the bad guys.

It's been 24 years since your big-screen debut, "Blue Chips." Do you feel like a veteran actor?

Well, I have shot 15 movies. I always tell my friends I shot 15 movies, but they

say, "Yeah, but if you play Shaq in nine of the movies, that's not really acting." I say, "You make a good point." I'm just happy to have the opportunity.

Favorite movie?

Oh, "Stepbrothers." All day, every day. I know that movie by heart.

What else do you like?

I just got done watching "Justice League." I thought it was pretty good. But they held Superman out too long.

The Lakers are rumored to be a likely landing spot for LeBron James. Do you want that to happen?

I just want the Lakers to be like they were back in the day. I want somebody that can beat Golden State. Golden State has turned into madness. The thing that would make me very excited is if LeBron James and Kawhi Leonard came to the Lakers. Then you'd have problems in the West. Then basketball would be fun again.

You were in make-up for four hours a day for "Uncle Drew." How did you pass the time?

Sleep. When I woke up, it still wasn't done.

Terry Crews says producer threatened 'trouble'

Terry Crews says a film producer said he could only return to the "Expendables" franchise if he dropped his sexual assault lawsuit against a Hollywood agent. The actor said it was an example of how "abusers protect abusers."

Crews made the allegation Tuesday at a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing. Crews last year accused a William Morris Endeavor talent agent of groping him at a party.

At the hearing, he was asked if there had been any retaliation for making the sexual assault allegation.

He said "Expendables" producer Avi Lerner asked that the actor drop his case in order to appear in the fourth installment of the action film and warned of "troubles" if it wasn't dropped. He has been in each of the previous films.

An email seeking comment from Lerner's Millennium Films was not immediately returned Tuesday afternoon.



Crews

'Swamp Brothers' seek help finding rare gator

A rare white alligator named Snowball was apparently stolen from a north Florida reptile farm owned by the "Swamp Brothers."

Sumter County Sheriff's officials said in a news release that Snowball has been missing since a fire broke out at Larkin Crossings Florida Inc. on Friday, killing 43 alligators and crocodiles. The farm is owned by Robbie and Stephen Keszey, who starred in the show on the Discovery Channel.

Sheriff's Capt. Pat Breeden tells the Ocala Star-Banner that the dead reptiles were mostly babies. Detectives said someone broke a window to get into the building and then set a fire. The state fire marshal's office is investigating.

The brothers are asking through social media for the public's help in finding Snowball, a leucistic alligator, born without skin pigmentation.

De Niro to get star on Hollywood Walk of Fame

Oscar winners Robert De Niro and Anne Hathaway are among the newest group of celebrities who will be honored by a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

The Hollywood Chamber of Commerce Walk of Fame selection committee on Monday announced the class of 2019.

"Murphy Brown" star Candice Bergen, chef Guy Fieri and Alvin and the Chipmunks were among those selected for their work in television.

Pink, Michael Buble and Faith Hill were some of the music honorees.

Idina Menzel, Cedric "The Entertainer," Judith Light and Paul Sorvino were picked for their work in live theater and performance.

Other news

■ A Philadelphia judge denied rapper Meek Mill's petition for a new trial in his decade-old drug and gun convictions Monday despite support for the request by the district attorney's office.

From wire reports

Hosts craft comic response to Trump comments

Associated Press

Three late-night TV hosts teamed up for a rare joint opening to respond to President Donald Trump.

Stephen Colbert's "The Late Show" on CBS and Jimmy Fallon's "The Tonight Show" on NBC began Tuesday with the taped segment in which the hosts video chat about comments Trump made about them Monday.

Fallon says, "Hey, lowlife." Colbert responds, "Hey, lost soul." Fallon says he heard Trump said they are "all no-talent, lowlifes, lost souls."

Colbert says that describes TBS host Conan O'Brien, who appears while shaving and says he didn't realize Trump had become president.

O'Brien cautions the hosts to be civil. He says, "If we're not careful, this could start to get ugly."



AP

Late-night TV hosts Stephen Colbert, Jimmy Fallon and Conan O'Brien

Colbert and Fallon agree to meet at the restaurant that denied service to Trump's press secretary.

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STARS AND STRIPES

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BUSINESS/WEATHER

Harley efforts to boost ridership predate trade tiff

By IVAN MORENO
Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — Harley-Davidson, the iconic brand that sells its customers an image of freedom and adventure, found itself in an unwanted role this week: poster child for the damage of an international trade war.

Harley said it would move production of motorcycles bound for Europe overseas, blaming European Union tariffs it said would add an estimated \$2,200 cost to the average bike.

That prompted President Donald Trump — whose own tariffs prompted the EU moves — to accuse Harley of using tariffs as an excuse for moves already planned.

Beneath the rhetoric, Harley is a company that needs overseas growth to shore up a business that is shrinking in the United States, where retail sales fell 8.5 percent last year. International sales also fell, but by less than 4 percent.

Milwaukee-based Harley has been putting renewed emphasis on teaching people to ride as part of its effort to attract more customers. As The Associated Press reported in December, Harley has expanded the number of dealerships with a Harley "Riding Academy."

The program launched in 2000 with about 50 locations; the company now says 250 dealerships in the U.S. offer the three- or four-day course. It says about a quarter of those launched since 2014.

The Motorcycle Industry Council says the median age of motorcycle owners increased from 32 to 47 since 1990. About 46 percent of riders are over 50; only about 10 percent are 30-34.

Samantha Kay rode on the back of her father's motorcycle



IVAN MORENO/AP

Terri Meehan, shown on a 2018 Harley Softail Slim in Milwaukee's House of Harley in December, took a riding course at the dealership as part of a Harley "Riding Academy" to attract new customers.

growing up, but when the 25-year-old took a class to ride for the first time she couldn't help being anxious.

"I think motorcycles inherently do scare a lot of people," Kay, of Milwaukee, told the AP in December, when she was one of 50,000 people nationwide to take such a riding course at a Harley-Davidson dealership in 2017.

The training is one of the ways Harley is trying to attract a new generation of riders like Kay amid big demographic shifts.

"Some of the aging baby boomers, which have been the guts of Harley-Davidson's purchasers, they're getting older and some of them are just getting out of the sport because they can't handle the motorcycle anymore," Clyde

Fessler, who retired from Harley-Davidson in 2002 after holding several executive positions over 25 years, told the AP in December. He created what became the "Riding Academy."

He said the idea "is getting people comfortable on a motorcycle and getting them to feel safe and confident."

In addition to riders getting older, a slow economic recovery has made it harder for millennials to buy new motorcycles, said Jim Williams, vice president of the American Motorcyclist Association.

Among the newest models, a 2018 Softail Slim starts at \$15,899 and a 2018 Sportster Forty-Eight at \$11,299.

But it's not all the millennials'

fault, said Robert Pandya, who managed public relations for Indian Motorcycles and Victory Motorcycles. Pandya recently launched "Give A Shift," a volunteer group discussing ideas to promote motorcycling. One of their conclusions, he said, is the idea that "if mom rides, the kids will ride."

Currently, women are about 14 percent of the riding population, according to the Motorcycle Industry Council.

"The biggest possible opportunity in motorcycling is to invite more women to ride," Pandya said in December.

That's not lost on Harley-Davidson. Among the ways Harley-Davidson is trying to reach younger riders is by having motorcycle role models like Jessica Hagggett, the founder of the "The Litas" all-women motorcycle club, be a voice for the company on social media.

The company is also focusing advertising efforts in male-dominated sports like the X Games and UFC, events popular with younger viewers.

"I think we have to work harder to gain share of mind with young adults, for example, in that they have other activities in their lives," said Heather Malenshek,

Harley-Davidson's vice president of marketing. "They're on screens, they're connecting socially, they're involved in gaming, they're involved in other things."

She said the easily customizable Sports Glide model that launched in November and the aggressive, performance-driven Fat Bob also have younger riders in mind. In all, the company plans to release 100 new motorcycles over the next 10 years.

During that time, the company also wants to gain 2 million new riders.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (June 28)	\$1.1939
Dollar buys (June 28)	69.8376
British pound (June 28)	\$1.35
Japanese yen (June 28)	107.00
South Korean won (June 28)	1,091.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3783
British pound	\$1.3157
Hungary (Forint)	281.69
Israel (Shekel)	3.6481
China (Yuan)	6.6009
Denmark (Krone)	6.4187
Egypt (Pound)	17.8731
Euro	\$1.1608/0.8615
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.8464
Philippines (Peso)	53.50
Poland (Zloty)	3.74
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7506
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3634
South Korea (Won)	1,118.32
Switzerland (Franc)	0.9950
Thailand (Baht)	33.03
Turkey (Lira)	4.5985

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom or nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	5.00
Discount rate	2.50
Federals funds market rate	0.32
3-month bill	1.90
30-year bond	3.02

MARKET WATCH

June 26, 2018

Dow Jones industrials	30.31
	24,283.11
Nasdaq composite	29.62
	7,561.63
Standard & Poor's 500	5.99
	2,723.06
Russell 2000	11.02
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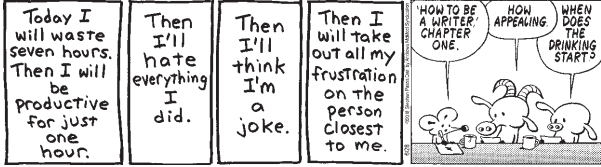
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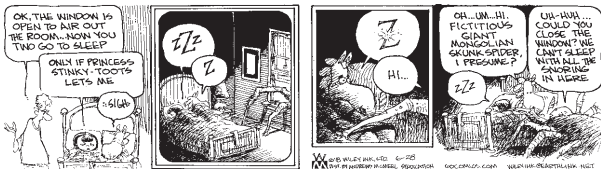
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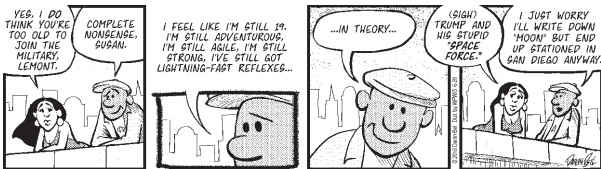
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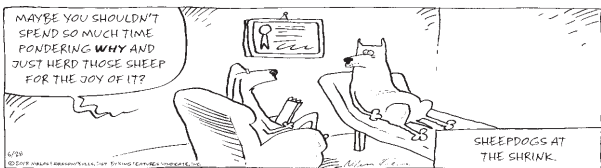
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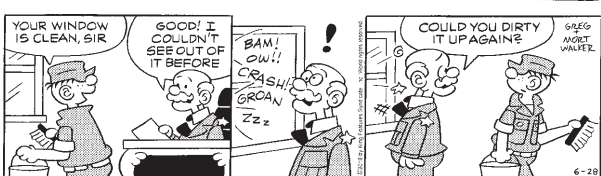
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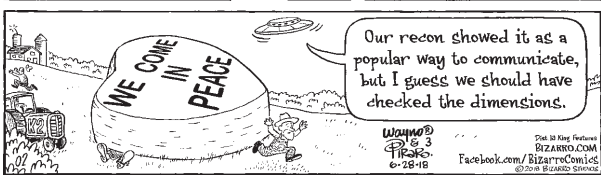
Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12				13					14			
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46	47	48			49		50					
51					52		53				54	55
56					57					58		
59					60					61		

ACROSS

- 1 — -la-la
- 4 Red-tag event
- 8 Pealed
- 12 Entanglement
- 13 Goatee's spot
- 14 Country singer
- 15 Adams and Van Buren
- 17 Lady of Spain
- 18 Neither mate
- 19 IRS examiner
- 21 Clan-related
- 24 Historic time
- 25 Plopped down
- 26 Vagrant
- 28 Trité
- 32 N. Mex. neighbor
- 34 Understood
- 36 Online auction site
- 37 Lubricate anew
- 39 Zing
- 41 Luau instrument
- 42 Royal insomnia cause
- 44 Radio components
- 46 Violent storm
- 50 — -di-dah
- 51 Screenwriter James
- 52 Cabbage variety
- 56 Afrikaner
- 57 Wry Bombneck
- 58 Fluffy neckpiece

- 59 Bygone fliers
- 60 Entryway
- 61 Hostel

DOWN

- 1 Former Delta rival
- 2 Civil War soldier
- 3 From the start (Lat.)
- 4 Ornamental beetle
- 5 Sashimi fish
- 6 Oscar-winner Kedrova
- 7 Follow
- 8 Give off, as heat
- 9 Oodles
- 10 iPod variety
- 11 Growl
- 16 Sailor
- 20 Hosp. workers
- 21 Despot
- 22 Scarce
- 23 Schlep
- 27 Clear the deck?
- 29 Middle Eastern capital
- 30 Huron, for one
- 31 Spuds' buds
- 33 Sleeping bag cloppers
- 35 Slugger Williams
- 38 Shelter
- 40 Column
- 43 Queried
- 45 Crew tool
- 46 Bar bills
- 47 Swelled heads
- 48 Bump into
- 49 Matador's foe
- 53 Med. plan option
- 54 "— voyage!"
- 55 Author Fleming

Answer to Previous Puzzle

S	K	I		R	O	A	M		S	O	A	R
H	I	M		E	A	S	E		O	B	O	E
A	L	A		P	R	I	M		A	R	I	L
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				C	A	P	S		C	E	D	E
M	I	G	H	T	I	L	I		T	E	T	E
O	N	A		S	T	E	E		B	A	N	
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6-28

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MLB

Roundup

Carpenter, Cards chase Kluber early in rout

Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Matt Carpenter helped the St. Louis Cardinals beat two-time Cy Young Award winner Corey Kluber in a way no one has before, then he stuck around to make some history of his own.

Carpenter homered twice, matched a career best with five hits and helped chase Kluber in the shortest start of the right-hander's career in the Cardinals' 11-2 victory over the Cleveland Indians on Tuesday night.

Carpenter, who also scored a career-best five runs, is the 19th player ever with five hits, including two home runs, and five runs in a game. He's the first Cardinals player to do it.

"I don't know, that leaves me kind of speechless," said Carpenter, who also drove in three. "It's pretty cool. Wow, there's been some really good players come through here. You would have figured somebody would have put together a night better than that."

Kluber (11-4) allowed six runs in 1 2/3 innings and has lost two of his past three decisions. He gave up six hits, including homers to Carpenter and Jose Martinez, and walked one on 48 pitches.

Prior to Tuesday, Kluber's shortest start had been two innings against the Tampa Bay Rays in 2013. His previous low this year was a five-inning game on June 15 against Minnesota when he took his third loss of the season.

"He's human," manager Terry Francona said. "Don't think guys go 35 starts without having a bump in the road."

It was a far cry from his only other appearance against the Cardinals. He struck out a career-best 18 in a 2-0 victory on May 13, 2015.

Carlos Martinez (4-4) settled down after a rough first inning for his first victory since May 2. He had lost three straight decisions over his previous five starts. He went six innings, allowing two runs, six hits and a walk while striking out eight.

St. Louis has won four straight after struggling through a 2-8 stretch. Cleveland entered the series on a seven-game winning streak before dropping the first two of this three-game set.

The Indians used three singles and a walk to take a 2-0 lead in the first but had only three more singles against Martinez and none after the starter was pulled.

Carpenter answered the Indians' fast start with his 14th home run. It was Carpenter's third leadoff homer of the year and 18th in his career. He also led off the eighth with his 15th homer, a solo shot, on a



Jeff Robinson/AP

The Cardinals' Matt Carpenter, left, is congratulated by third base coach Jose Osque after hitting a solo home run during the first inning Tuesday against the Indians.

5-for-5 night. The five hits matched a mark he set June 14, 2014 at Kansas City, and he was a triple shy of the cycle.

"I don't think you wish for a home run not to be a home run, but it would have been cool to do," he said of the cycle. "It's something I've never done, but I'll take the home run, too."

Yankees 6, Phillies 0: Luis Severino became the majors' first 12-game winner, Aaron Hicks and Didi Gregorius homered and New York beat host Philadelphia.

Severino (12-2) struck out nine in seven dominant innings, lowering his ERA to 2.10. The ace has allowed three runs or less in 16 of 17 starts.

Rays 1, Nationals 0: Nathan Eovaldi took a no-hitter into the sixth inning before an unusual combination of relievers in the ninth completed a three-hitter as host Tampa Bay beat Max Scherzer and Washington.

Eovaldi (2-3) lost his no-hit bid when Bryce Harper hit an opposite-field double off the left-field wall with two outs in the sixth.

Scherzer (10-4) gave up one run, four hits, three walks and struck out four in seven innings.

Red Sox 9, Angels 1: Mookie Betts homered on John Lamb's first pitch of the game, and J.D. Martinez hit his major league-leading 24th home run to back David Price's six strong innings in Boston's route of Los Angeles.

Cubs 9, Dodgers 4: Javier Baez hit two home runs, including a grand slam, Jon Lester won his sixth consecutive start and visiting Chicago ended a five-game losing streak.

Baez homered in consecutive innings, giving him 16 on the season, and finished with four hits.

Brewers 5, Royals 1: Freddy Peralta pitched one-hit ball over seven scoreless innings, Jesus Aguilar hit one of his team's three homers and host Milwaukee beat Kansas City.

Peralta (3-0) allowed a leadoff double in the third to Adalberto Mondesi and also allowed a walk in the second. The 22-year-old rookie was perfect otherwise, striking out 10 in his fourth major league start.

Padres 3, Rangers 2: Wil Myers and Hunter Renfroe hit run-scoring doubles in their team's three-run eighth inning, helping visiting San Diego rally past Texas.

Shin-Soo Choo singled with two outs in the ninth to extend his major league-leading streak of reaching base to 39 games before Brad Hand got Nomar Mazara to fly out with two runners on for his 22nd save.

Athletics 9, Tigers 7: Jed Lowrie drove in the tiebreaking run in the top of the ninth inning for a second straight game, and visiting Oakland rallied from six runs down to hand Detroit its seventh straight loss.

Detroit led 6-0 after three innings, but Oakland came back to tie it at 7-all in the

seventh. Lowrie singled home Matt Joyce in the ninth for his fourth hit of the night.

Astros 7, Blue Jays 0: Charlie Morton struck out 13 in seven stellar innings, Jake Marisnick hit a three-run homer in the eighth after preserving the shutout with a big defensive play in the sixth.

Morton (10-1) scattered four hits and walked two for his third straight win to become host Houston's first 10-game winner.

Mariners 3, Orioles 2: Kyle Seager homered and hit a pivotal two-run single in the eighth inning to back a fine pitching performance by James Paxton and help Seattle beat host Baltimore.

Paxton (7-2) struck out 10 over seven innings, allowing two runs and six hits.

Mets 4, Pirates 3: Wilmer Flores singled home the winning run in the 10th inning and host New York stopped its seven-game losing streak, beating Pittsburgh hours after general manager Sandy Alderson stepped down because his cancer has returned.

Michael Conforto hit a tying homer and Flores had three RBIs for the Mets (32-45).

Reds 5, Braves 3: Matt Harvey pitched six-hit ball into the seventh inning, earning back-to-back wins for the first time this season and leading Cincinnati to a victory over host Atlanta.

Jesus Winker had three hits and two RBIs for last-place Cincinnati, which has won eight of nine. Scooter Gennett had two hits, including a run-scoring single in the ninth, and scored three times.

Diamondbacks 5, Marlins 3: John Ryan Murphy drove in three runs to help Arizona to a victory over host Miami.

Zack Godley (9-5) pitched five innings and allowed two runs and six hits for the Diamondbacks.

Giants 3, Rockies 2: Gorkys Hernandez drew a go-ahead, bases-loaded walk in the eighth inning after his earlier solo home run, and host San Francisco beat Colorado.

Tom Murphy doubled to start the ninth for the Rockies on a hit that sliding Hernandez couldn't secure in center field, and the ball kicked back toward the infield.

San Francisco left third base uncovered, but despite base coach Stu Cole wildly gesturing, Murphy never looked up and stopped at second.

DJ LeMahieu wound up grounding into a game-ending double play that was confirmed on replay.

White Sox 8, Twins 4: Yolmer Sanchez matched a career high with four RBIs, Avisail Garcia hit his first homer since returning from the disabled list last week and host Chicago came back to beat Minnesota.

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SPORTS BRIEFS/NHL/COLLEGE WORLD SERIES

Briefly

Wizards trade Gortat

WASHINGTON — Seemed fairly clear that Marcin Gortat and the Washington Wizards were ready to part ways. Now they will.

The Wizards traded Gortat, their starting center, to the Los Angeles Clippers for guard Austin Rivers on Tuesday night. Both players are entering the final season of their contracts and are set to earn similar salaries, making a straight-up exchange work under NBA rules.

The 34-year-old Gortat is a durable, screen-setting big man who has played 12 years in the league, the past five with Washington. He averaged 8.4 points and 7.6 rebounds last season, his lowest numbers since 2009-10, when he was with the Orlando Magic, but could fill a need in Los Angeles if DeAndre Jordan departs.

Rivers, who turns 26 in August, averaged a career-best 15.1 points and four assists last season while playing for his father, Doc, the Clippers' coach.

Source: Sabres acquire Sheary

BUFFALO, N.Y. — The Buffalo Sabres have acquired forward Conor Sheary and defenseman Matt Hunwick in a trade with the Pittsburgh Penguins, a person with direct knowledge of the deal confirmed to The Associated Press.

The Sabres gave up a conditional 2019 draft pick in the trade completed on Wednesday, the person said. The person spoke on the condition of anonymity because the deal had not yet been announced.

TSN of Canada first reported the trade.

Sheary is a dependable two-way forward who has won two Stanley Cups in his three seasons with the Penguins. He had 18 goals and 30 points in 79 games last season. Sheary's best season was two years ago when he scored 23 goals and had 53 points in 61 games.

Hunwick is an 11-year NHL veteran who had four goals and 10 points in 42 games with the Penguins last season.

On other NHL news:

■ The Tampa Bay Lightning have resigned forward J.T. Miller to a five-year contract worth \$26.25 million.

Miller will count \$5.5 million against the salary cap through 2022-23. General manager Steve Yzerman announced the deal with the pending restricted free agent on Tuesday.

Acquired from the New York Rangers at the trade deadline, Miller put up 18 points in 19 regular-season games with Tampa Bay and then eight more in 17 playoff games. The 25-year-old Miller has 82 goals and 108 assists in 360 NHL games.

Wimbledon seeds Serena 25th

Serena Williams was seeded No. 25 for her return to Wimbledon after having a baby, a decision by the All England Club announced Wednesday that elevates the tournament's seven-time champion above her ranking of 183rd.

While WTA rules allow women who miss time because of a pregnancy to enter events based on their pre-absence ranking, there is no guarantee of a seeding, a policy which has been the subject of much debate in recent months because of Williams' status. The 36-year-old American gave birth to a daughter last September and was off the tour for more than a year.

By moving Williams into the top 32, the All England Club afforded her "protection" from facing any other seeded player in either of the first two rounds. Williams is a former No. 1 whose 23 major singles championships are a record for the professional era, which began in 1968.

— Associated Press



BILL KOSTROUN/AP

New Jersey Devils goaltender Martin Brodeur leads a save against the Ottawa Senators on Feb. 18, 2012 in Newark, N.J. Brodeur leads all goalies with 691 wins and 125 shutouts in 1,266 regular-season games with the Devils and St. Louis Blues.

Bettman, Brodeur, O'Ree top Hall class

By STEPHEN WHYNO

Associated Press

Willie O'Ree didn't know he had broken the NHL's color barrier when he made his debut in 1958. Martin Brodeur couldn't see the three Stanley Cup titles and jaw-dropping career ahead when he played his first game in goal for the New Jersey Devils in 1992 and, a year later, Gary Bettman didn't know he would end up growing the league by leaps and bounds over the next 25 years as its commissioner.

All three will go into the Hockey Hall of Fame together as the headliners of a trailblazing class of 2018 that also includes diminutive forward Martin St. Louis, four-time gold-medal-winning Canadian woman's national team star Jayna Hefford and Russian Alexander Yakushev.

O'Ree was the first black player in the NHL. Bettman has overseen the league's expansion into a multibillion-dollar industry and Brodeur piled up the most wins and shutouts of any goaltender in NHL history.

Bettman has been commissioner since 1993, during which time the NHL has expanded its footprint across North America and increased from 24 to 31 teams. In that time, the league has gone from a \$437 million business to one with almost \$5 billion in revenue. It's been an occasionally bruising ride, with three work stoppages, including one that canceled the entire 2004-05 season and led to the salary cap. But Bettman has been nothing if not a strong leader, and all-time great Wayne Gretzky said the efforts to help each club compete have made the game stronger.

"His leadership and love for hockey is very evident," Gretzky said. "Hockey

has become more entertaining year after year, thanks in part to his passion for the game."

Brodeur lifted the Stanley Cup three times with the Devils between 1995 and 2003. He leads all goalies with 691 wins and 125 shutouts in 1,266 regular-season games with the Devils and St. Louis Blues, and he won the Vezina Trophy four times. He won 113 playoff games and had a 2.02 postseason goals-against average. Brodeur also scored two regular-season goals and another in the playoffs — more than any other goalie.

While Brodeur and St. Louis were first-ballot selections, O'Ree had been waiting decades for this honor since making history at the Montreal Forum on Jan. 18, 1958, with the Boston Bruins. He was 32.

A native of Fredericton, New Brunswick, in Eastern Canada, O'Ree finished with four goals and 10 assists in 45 NHL games during the 1957-58 and 1960-61 seasons despite being 95 percent blind in his right eye. O'Ree was the first black player in the NHL but he will be the third inducted into the Hall of Fame, joining Edmonton Oilers goalie Grant Fuhr and Canadian women's national team captain Angela James.

St. Louis was a 5-foot-8 winger who put up 1,033 points in 1,134 regular-season games over 17 seasons, winning the Cup with Tampa Bay in 2004 and an Olympic gold medal with Canada in 2014.

Hefford won four Olympic gold medals and seven world championships, putting up 30 points in 26 Olympic games. She said the honor was more emotional than some of her medals because she could share it with so many family members, friends and teammates.

Yakushev became known to North American hockey fans during the 1972 Summit Series between Canada and the Soviet Union, with 11 points in eight games. He also won Olympic gold medals in 1972 and 1976.

Arkansas overcomes Heimlich, Oregon St.

By ERIC OLSON

Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — Arkansas didn't hit much against Luke Heimlich and Christian Chamberlain in Game 1 of the College World Series finals. In fact, the Razorbacks struck out 16 times.

Somewhat, some way, they sit on the cusp of their first national championship in baseball after beating Oregon State 4-1 Tuesday night.

They capitalized against a faltering Heimlich in a four-run fifth inning, got a strong start from Blaine Knight with shut-down relief pitching and mixed in a few big defensive plays. That enabled the Razorbacks to win on a night when they mustered just five hits.

"I feel fortunate to win the game," Razorbacks coach Dave Van Horn said. "Baseball is a little different game sometimes, and you have eight innings where you don't do much and you put together one inning. You pitch good enough and play defense, you can win. That's kind of what went on tonight."

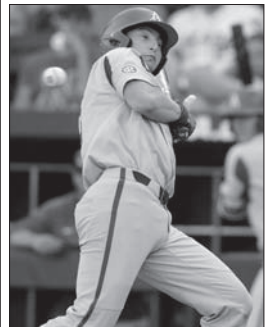
The finals opener, delayed a day because of rain, seemed to have a little bit of everything — a fly ball lost in the sun that went for a ground-rule double, a runner interference call against Oregon State and an overturned foul call on a ball hit down the right-field line.

Nothing turned the game more than the sudden collapse of Heimlich.

"He started to lose it," OSU coach Pat Casey said. "He didn't throw the ball where he needed to. He'd been real good all year long, and certainly really struggled in that inning."

After failing to get out of the third inning in both of his previous CWS starts, the Beavers' ace was in full command while striking out five and limiting the Razorbacks (48-19) to one hit through four innings.

In the fifth, though, the senior left-hander issued a walk and hit two batters.



MATT HARRIN/AP

Arkansas' Jax Biggers is hit by a pitch from Oregon State starter Luke Heimlich during the fifth inning of Game 1 of the College World Series finals Tuesday in Omaha, Neb. Arkansas won 4-1.

WORLD CUP

Striker showdown or B-team outing?

Having already qualified, England and Belgium might rest regulars

Live on AFN

By MIKE CORDER

Associated Press

KALININGRAD, Russia — It could be a showdown between two of the hottest strikers at the World Cup. Or it could be a battle of B teams.

With England and Belgium already qualified for the knockout stage after winning their first two matches, Thursday's Group G game in the Russian out-

"The reality is that we are qualified and in a tournament like the World Cup, you're only as good as the 23 players."

Roberto Martinez

Belgium coach

World Cup's top scorer with five goals. That's one more than Lukaku and Cristiano Ronaldo, who had a penalty saved in Portugal's 1-1 draw with Iran on Monday.

England coach Gareth Southgate has to bal-

ance Kane's pursuit of the Golden Boot given to the tournament's top scorer against keeping the player fresh for the knockout stage.

With his three goals against Panama, Kane became the third Englishman after Geoff Hurst and Gary Lineker to score a hat trick in a World Cup match.

"He's sitting really proudly at the top. He's gone ahead of some major, major names in English football history in terms of World Cup goals," Southgate said. "That should make him incredibly proud, but he also knows the team is the most important thing and we have to make decisions that are right for the team."

Lukaku, meanwhile, did not train with Belgium on Tuesday and looks likely to be rested. Lukaku, playmaker Eden Hazard and winger Dries Mertens are all nursing injuries after Belgium's 5-2 victory over Panama.

There is speculation in England and Belgium that losing Thursday's match could mean an easier route to the final, but both teams insist they will be aiming for a win.

The Group G winner next plays the runner-up from Group H, where Japan, Senegal and Colombia are still in contention. The Group G runner-up plays the winner of Group H.

"For our country, that would be a very difficult mindset to have," Southgate said of the possibility of taking it easy. "We want to win every game of football we go into. I don't know how we would go into a game not wanting to

win and not wanting to play well."

Belgium defender Toby Alderweireld echoed that sentiment.

"We are going to try to win the game, because as a footballer you want to win every game," he said.

England knows from bitter experience that there is no such thing as an easy draw at major tournaments after its embarrassing defeat by Iceland at the 2016 European Championship in France.

That said, Belgium coach Roberto Martinez has already signaled he will be shuffling his team on Thursday.

"The reality is that we are qualified and in a tournament like the World Cup, you're only as good as the 23 players (in the squad). There will be opportunities for other players," he said.

Alderweireld, for one, doesn't feel like sitting out a match.

"Rest? I think footballers always want to play. Everybody after this game," he said. "I feel good. There are enough days between matches. I feel ready if the trainer needs me."

England and Belgium have identical records and goal tallies heading into their group decider, so a draw in Kaliningrad would have FIFA consulting its tiebreaker rules to determine the group winner. That means it could come down to the teams' disciplinary records and if that doesn't separate them, drawing lots.

Group H
Japan vs. Poland
AFN-Sports2
4 p.m. Thursday CET
11 p.m. Thursday JKT

Group H
Senegal vs. Colombia
AFN-Sports
4 p.m. Thursday CET
11 p.m. Thursday JKT

Group G
England vs. Belgium
AFN-Sports
8 p.m. Thursday CET
3 a.m. Friday JKT

Group G
Panama vs. Tunisia
AFN-Sports2
8 p.m. Thursday CET
3 a.m. Friday JKT

Quintero, Rodriguez combo clicks for Colombia

By SAMUEL PETREQUIN

Associated Press

KAZAN, Russia — They've been friends since childhood and now they are forming a surprising midfield partnership for Colombia at the World Cup.

James Rodriguez and Juan Quintero shined in the team's 3-0 win over Poland, with three assists between them. The display helped keep the South Americans in contention to advance from their group.

Their pairing hasn't always worked for Colombia, since both are left-footed and have a similar style of play.

Coach Jose Pekerman has tried and tested the combination before with little success.

But it worked perfectly Sunday as Rodriguez and Quintero repaid Pekerman's confidence with scintillating and dedicated performances. Rodriguez, the top scorer at the 2014 World Cup in Brazil, had two assists and was named man of the match while Quintero set up Radamel Falcao's first-ever World Cup goal with a perfect pass.

"We're talking about two players with extraordinary talent," Pekerman said after the match. "They played very well together."

Quintero earned his selection for the World Cup at the last minute after missing out on the entire qualification campaign, thanks to excellent showings with Argentine club River Plate, where he has been on loan from Porto. He had started in Colombia's first group match against Japan



FRANK AUGUSTIN/AP

Colombia head coach Jose Pekerman, right, talks to Juan Quintero during the Group H match against Poland. Quintero and James Rodriguez combined for three assists.

in place of Rodriguez, who came on as a substitute for his friend later in the game, and Quintero scored in the 2-1 loss. To celebrate his goal, he ran toward Rodriguez, who had been hampered by a calf injury and couldn't start.

"He knows that I'll always give him my unconditional support," Quintero said.

Quintero and Rodriguez have a perfect understanding of each other. They have played together in clubs and national youth teams, and were called up by Pekerman in 2012.

Against Poland, their pace, slick passing and fine one-touch moves made Polish players' head spin. They also started off the play that led to Yerri Mina's opener in the first half.

"It's because we have been playing from a very young age. We try to make everything natural," Quintero said. "He (Rodriguez) knows the admiration I have for him. I love him very much. The most important

thing is that we can achieve things for Colombia."

Pekerman might be tempted to start with the pair again in Colombia's final group game against Senegal on Thursday, when his players need a win to qualify.

"We need to play at an extraordinary level to beat a tough team," he said. "Mentally, we're in a good place, but we need to continue to improve, because we are ambitious, and we hope to continue in this World Cup."

Pekerman won't have midfielder Abel Aguilar on Thursday against Senegal because of a left adductor injury.

Aguilar was injured in the first half of Colombia's 3-0 win over Poland last Sunday and had to be stretched off the field.

Pekerman said Aguilar wouldn't be available in the team's decisive final group match in Samara, but he did not rule the 33-year-old veteran out of the rest of the tournament should Colombia advance.

Japan targets win to take first in group

By PAN PYLAS

Associated Press

VOLGOGRAD, Russia — Akira Nishino knows there are a few ways for his Japan squad to qualify for the knockout stage of the World Cup for the third time in five tournaments.

He only cares about one. With a victory over No. 8-ranked Poland at Volgograd, Japan can finish atop Group H.

Nishino says, "We are still going for top of the group."

After a 2-2 draw last Sunday, Japan and Senegal share the lead with four points and the same number of goals scored and conceded.

Japan can advance with a win or a draw, and perhaps even a loss. It could even be decided on the drawing of lots.

But Nishino's squad, which was the lowest-ranked and considered the longest shot to advance from the group, was emboldened by its opening 2-1 win over Colombia and now is aiming to advance with a bigger win over winless Poland, which is already out of contention.

If Japan earns at least the point it needs against Poland, it will be only the second time that Japan has gone through the group stage undefeated, the other being when co-hosting in 2002 with South Korea.

Colombia, which has three points, could still top the group with a win over Senegal.

If Japan and Senegal were to finish in second spot and with the same goal difference and number of goals scored, then the team advancing could be determined by the number of yellow and red cards awarded.

If that can't separate them, FIFA will draw lots to decide who goes through.

WORLD CUP

Nigerians complain about call

By JEROME PUGMIRE
Associated Press

ST. PETERSBURG, Russia — After going out of the World Cup, Nigeria complained about not being awarded a second penalty in a 2-1 defeat to Argentina on Tuesday.

There were about 15 minutes of a tense game remaining, and Nigeria was enjoying a strong spell of pressure at St. Petersburg Stadium, when the latest video review talking point of the tournament came.

Marcos Rojo was the only Argentina defender in the penalty box, and under pressure from striker Odion Ighalo lurking behind him, when he jumped high to head Ahmed Musa's deflected cross away from danger.

He didn't succeed. Instead, the Manchester United defender completely mistimed the header and the ball ended up glancing off his left arm, and then falling invitingly to Ighalo near the penalty spot. Ighalo had lots of time to pick his spot, but blazed the ball wide of the left post.

Nigeria's players were sure it was a penalty, however, and Turkish referee Cüneyt Çakır — who awarded Nigeria a penalty early in the second half — used video to review this one and stood by his initial decision not to award a spot kick, much to the frustration of Nigeria's players.

"I don't understand how that was not a penalty," captain John Obi Mikel said. "It was a clear handball. If you look at this game yesterday against Portugal, this was even worse."

Mikel was referring to Iran's late penalty against Portugal in a 1-1 draw on Monday — awarded for a handball after a video review — and he felt Rojo got away with it. Rojo went on to score Argentina's late winner to send his side through, and put Nigeria out.



RICARDO MAZALAN/AP

Argentina's Lionel Messi, left, settles the ball before scoring the opening goal of Tuesday's Group D match against Nigeria at the World Cup in St. Petersburg, Russia. It was Messi's first goal of the tournament. Argentina won 2-1.

Group D

Staving off elimination

Messi scores as Argentina advances to round of 16

Associated Press

ST. PETERSBURG, Russia — From his thigh to his foot to the back of the net, Lionel Messi finally scored a goal at this year's World Cup.

The exquisite strike from the Argentina great sparked the first of several celebrations from an animated Diego Maradona, who screamed, shouted and made obscene gestures — and raised concerns for his health.

Argentina staved off elimination with a 2-1 victory over Nigeria on Tuesday, getting a late goal from Marcos Rojo. Maradona showed both middle fingers to the crowd after the 86th-minute winner.

A short time later, videos posted on social media showed Maradona needing help out of the stands and into an adjoining luxury box at the stadium. He appeared to have his eyes closed and a later photo showed a pair of paramedics attending to him.

There was no immediate information on his health, but about two hours later he was photographed smiling at an airport. Another photo posted on Twitter appeared to show him sitting on a plane.

Messi's goal — his 65th for Argentina — was surely enough to impress even Maradona.

From a long pass over the defense by



NATACHA PISARENKO/AP

Croatia's Ivan Rakitic, left, and Iceland's Johann Gudmundsson jump for the ball during their Group D match Tuesday in Rostov-on-Don, Russia.

Ever Banega, Messi caressed the ball with his left thigh, took another touch with his left foot, and then delivered a smooth right-footed finish into the corner.

Messi fell to his knees and pointed his fingers upward in celebration. At the same time, Maradona crossed his arms with his hands on his shoulders and looked to the sky.

"I knew that God is with us," Messi said, "and he wouldn't let us get eliminated."

Croatia 2, Iceland 1: Fielding a side filled with reserves, Croatia ended Iceland's first ever World Cup run in Rostov-on-Don, Russia.

Milan Badelj crashed a volley against the bar, and moments later scored for Croatia in the 53rd minute, sprinting into the area to fire a bouncing shot past goalkeeper Hannes Halldorsson.

Croatia playmaker Luka Modric led the already-qualified Croats for 65 minutes before being taken off, as his team remained in low-gear for most of the match to contain the Icelanders, who had needed a win to hope for a place in the last 16.

Iceland equalized with a penalty shot taken by Gylfi Sigurdsson in the 76th minute after substitute Dejan Lovren carelessly handled the ball. But Ivan Perisic punished a defensive error to make it 2-1 at 90 minutes.

Russian fans at the 45,000-seat Rostov Arena roared for the underdogs as the traveling Iceland supporters kept up their singing and chanting all evening.



MICHAEL SOHN/AP

The ball glances off the arm of Argentina's Marcos Rojo in the box during Tuesday's Group D match against Nigeria. After video review, no penalty was called.

SPORTS



Cards blast Kluber
Carpenter nearly hits for cycle in
out of Indians » **MLB, Page 27**

Auf wiedersehen

Defending World Cup champ Germany falls to South Korea, fails to advance

By SAMUEL PETREQUIN
Associated Press

KAZAN, Russia — Germany is out of the World Cup, the fourth defending champion in the last five tournaments to be eliminated in the group stage.

The four-time champions lost to South Korea 2-0 Wednesday, allowing a pair of injury-time goals while knowing a 1-0 victory would have been enough to advance because of the result in the other group match.

Germany ended up last in Group F while Sweden and Mexico advanced to the round of 16. South Korea was also eliminated despite the victory.

"It's very, very hard to put it into words," Germany defender Mats Hummels said. "We believed until the end today, even when it was 0-1, I think we kept trying to turn it all around."

It was the first time Germany has been eliminated in the first round since 1938.

Kim Young-gwon scored the first goal in the third minute of injury time. Originally called out for offside, the goal was then given after video review.

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Son Heung-min made it 2-0 in the sixth minute of stoppage time after Germany goalkeeper Manuel Neuer came up the field to help his teammates outside the South Korea box. Son tapped the ball into an empty net after a long pass from Ju Se-jong.

Besides Germany this year, France in 2002, Italy in 2010 and Spain in 2014 were the previous defending champions to get eliminated in the group stage.

"We deserved to be eliminated," Germany coach Joachim Loew said. "For us, this is a huge disappointment. But we have young players who are talented and have the potential to go forward. It happened to other nations before. We need to draw the right conclusions."

All four teams in the group had a chance to

SEE AUF ON PAGE 31

Germany's Thomas Mueller wipes his face after a Group F loss Wednesday to South Korea eliminated the defending champions from the World Cup.

LEE JIN-MAN/AP



South Korea's Lee Jae-sung, left, and Germany's Mats Hummels fight for the ball during their Group F match Wednesday in Kazan, Russia. South Korea won 2-0 to eliminate Germany from the tournament.

THANASSIS STAVRAKIS/AP

Brodeur, Bettman top Hall of Fame class » NHL, Page 28



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